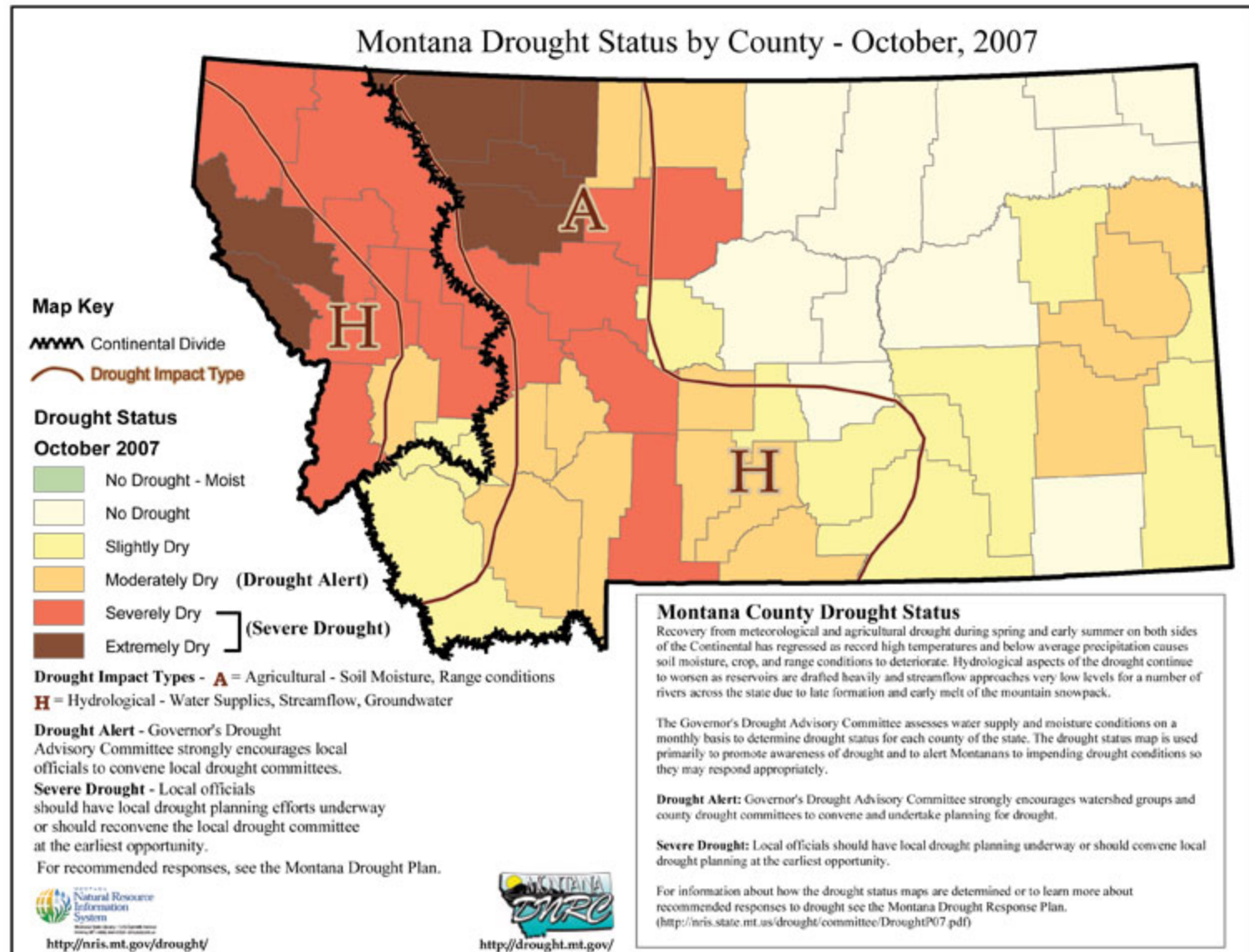



Montana Drought Status - October



Montana Drought Status - November

Montana Drought Status by County - November, 2007







Map Key

 Continental Divide

 Drought Impact Type

Drought Status

November 2007

-  No Drought - Moist
 -  No Drought
 -  Slightly Dry
 -  Moderately Dry (Drought Alert)
 -  Severely Dry
 -  Extremely Dry
- (Severe Drought)

Drought Impact Types - **A** = Agricultural - Soil Moisture, Range conditions

H = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow, Groundwater

Drought Alert - Governor's Drought Advisory Committee strongly encourages local officials to convene local drought committees.

Severe Drought - Local officials should have local drought planning efforts underway or should reconvene the local drought committee at the earliest opportunity.

For recommended responses, see the Montana Drought Plan.



<http://nris.mt.gov/drought/>



<http://drought.mt.gov/>

Montana County Drought Status

Recovery from meteorological and agricultural drought during spring and early summer on both sides of the Continental has regressed as record high temperatures and below average precipitation causes soil moisture, crop, and range conditions to deteriorate. Hydrological aspects of the drought continue to worsen as reservoirs are drafted heavily and streamflow approaches very low levels for a number of rivers across the state due to late formation and early melt of the mountain snowpack.

The Governor's Drought Advisory Committee assesses water supply and moisture conditions on a monthly basis to determine drought status for each county of the state. The drought status map is used primarily to promote awareness of drought and to alert Montanans to impending drought conditions so they may respond appropriately.

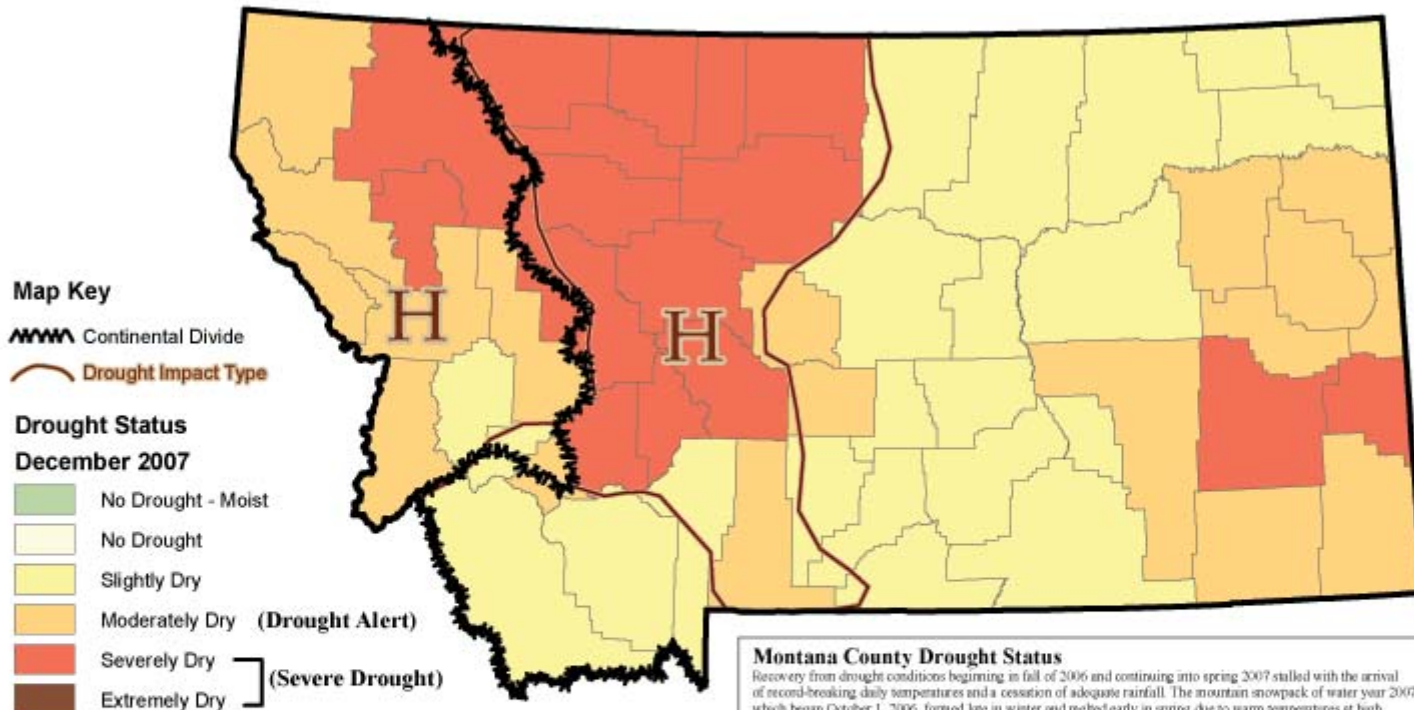
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Montana Drought Status - December

Montana Drought Status by County - December, 2007



Drought Impact Types - A = Agricultural - Soil Moisture, Range conditions

H = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow, Groundwater

Drought Alert - Governor's Drought

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<http://drought.mt.gov/>

Montana County Drought Status

Recovery from drought conditions beginning in fall of 2006 and continuing into spring 2007 stalled with the arrival of record-breaking daily temperatures and a cessation of adequate rainfall. The mountain snowpack of water year 2007, which began October 1, 2006, formed late in winter and melted early in spring due to warm temperatures at high elevations causing record low streamflow by summer. Near average precipitation returned by fall as a La Nina, or cold climate event began to take effect. La Nina usually brings above average precipitation and below average temperatures to Montana in winter. Nevertheless, poor water supply conditions persist for many counties east and west of the Continental Divide. Recent improvement in snow water content of the mountain snowpack across the state for fall of 2007 is improving the water supply outlook for 2008 however.

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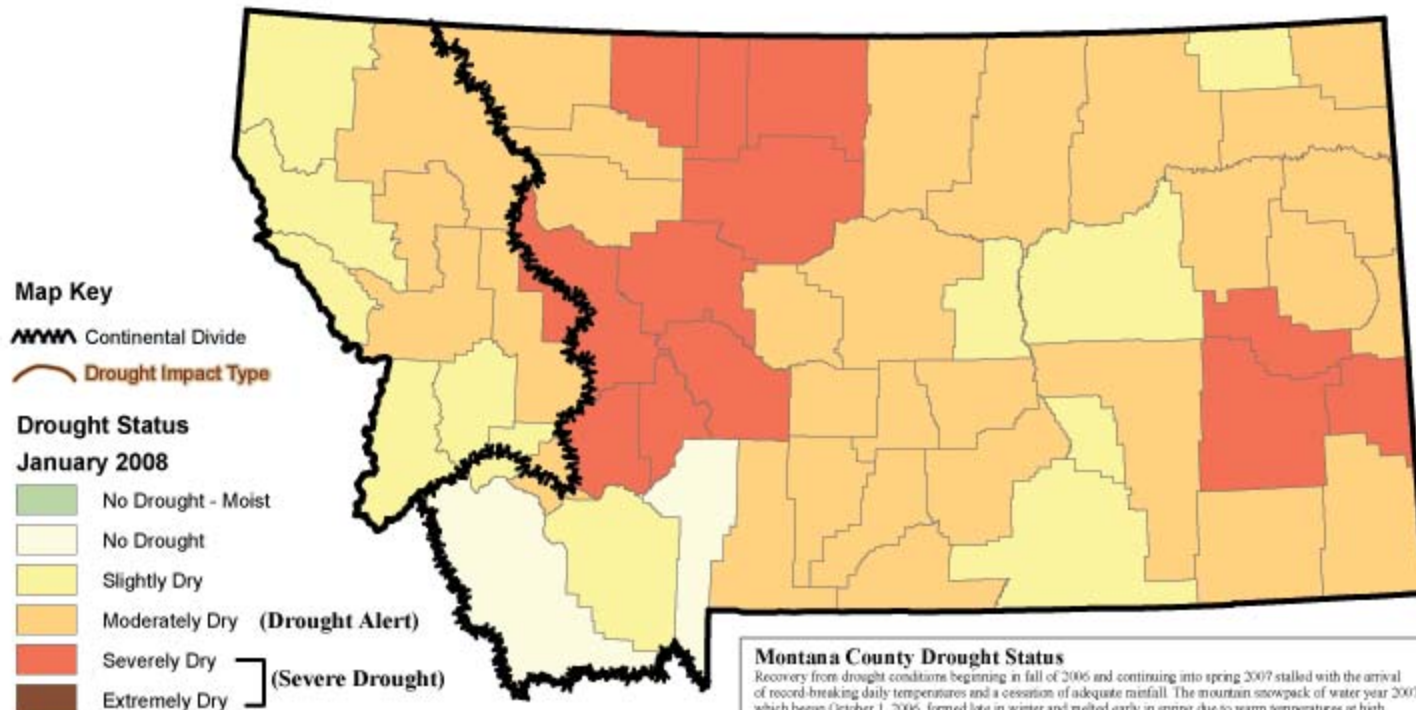
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Montana Drought Status - January

Montana Drought Status by County - January, 2008



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H = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow, Groundwater

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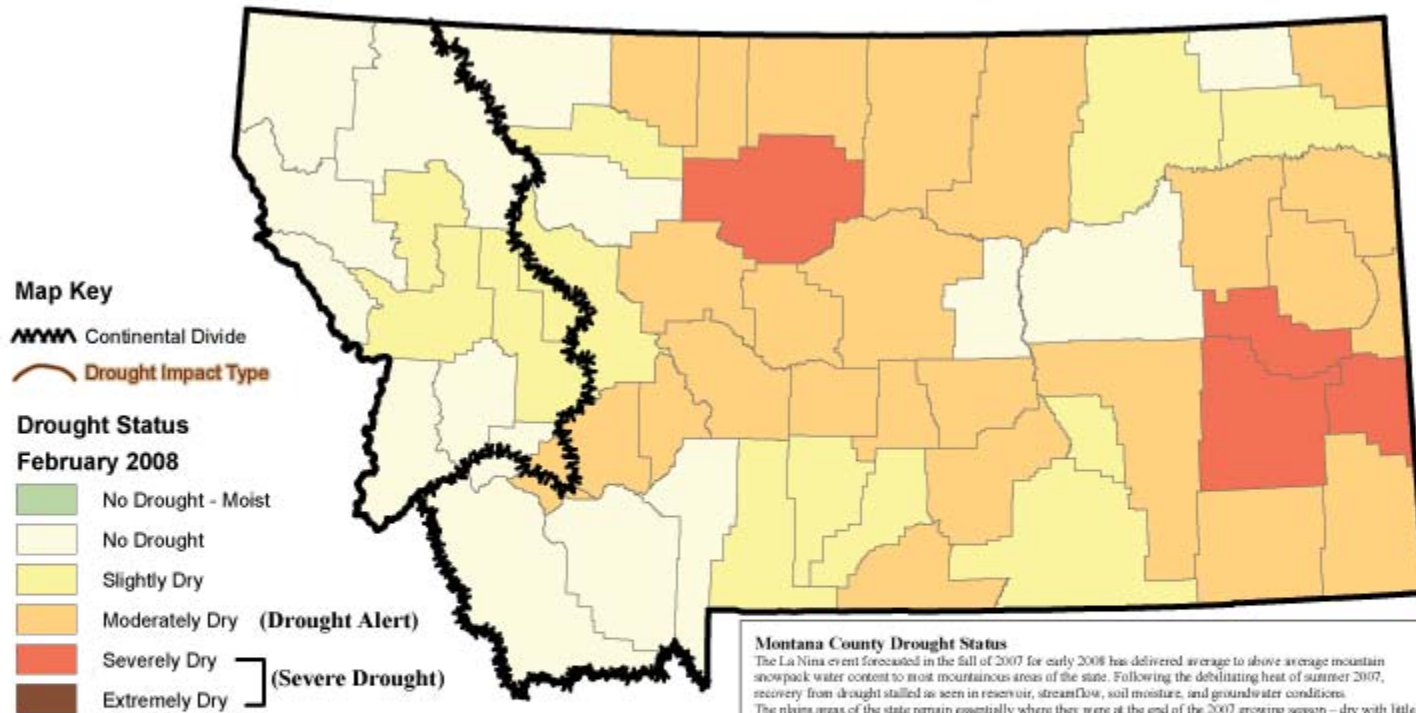
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Montana Drought Status - February

Montana Drought Status by County - February, 2008



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H = Hydrological - Water Supplies, Streamflow, Groundwater

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Montana County Drought Status

The La Nina event forecasted in the fall of 2007 for early 2008 has delivered average to above average mountain snowpack water content to most mountainous areas of the state. Following the debilitating heat of summer 2007, recovery from drought stalled as seen in reservoir, streamflow, soil moisture, and groundwater conditions. The plains areas of the state remain essentially where they were at the end of the 2007 growing season - dry with little snow cover. The period from December through March brings only about two to three inches in a normal year to plains and valley elevations and spring steams will be important to recovery in these areas. But the water supply outlook looks very favorable as of mid-February for surface water dependent valleys on both sides of the Continental Divide as the mountains reach the two-third mark of the snow water accumulation period for the water year. The concern at this time is whether the state will experience an early snowmelt of mountain snowpack, as in 2007, or a normal runoff period from mid-May through June.

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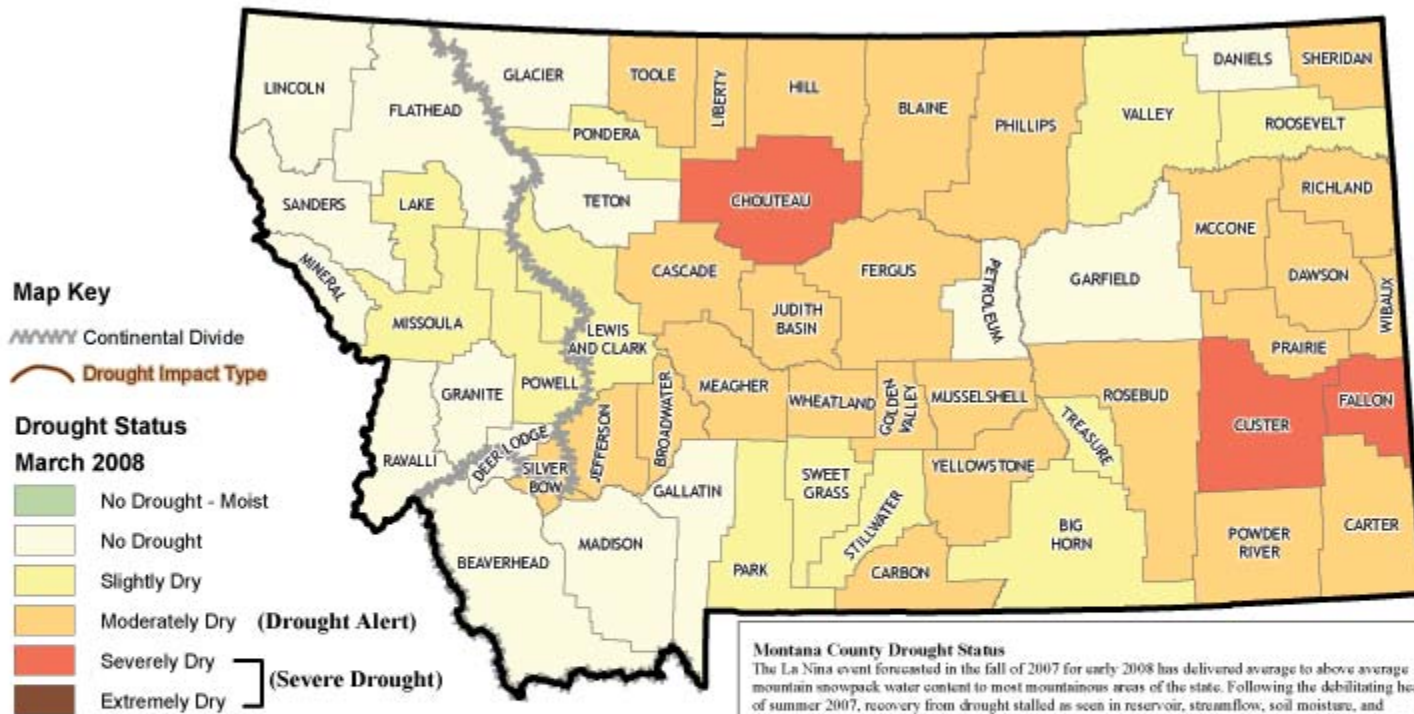
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Montana Drought Status - March

Montana Drought Status by County - March, 2008



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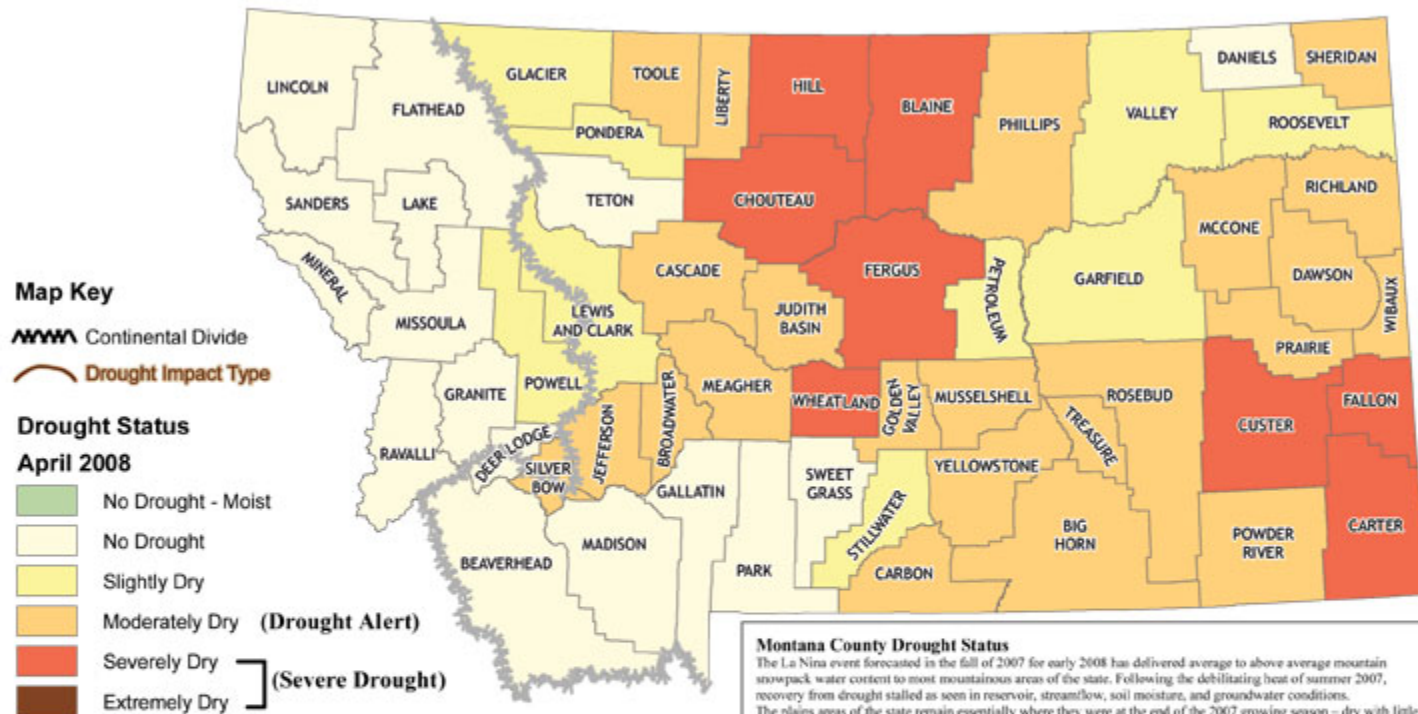
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Montana Drought Status - April

Montana Drought Status by County - April, 2008



Montana County Drought Status

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<http://nris.mt.gov/drought/>



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Governor's Drought Advisory Committee Meeting

April 17, 2008

National Weather Service

Gina Loss

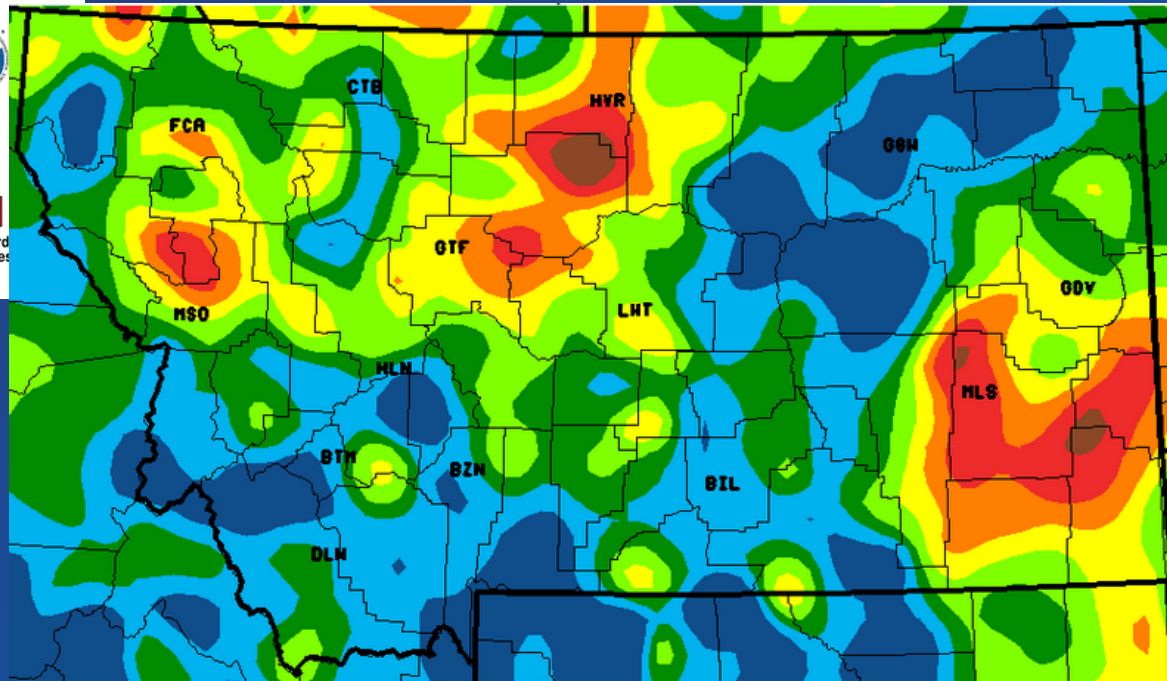
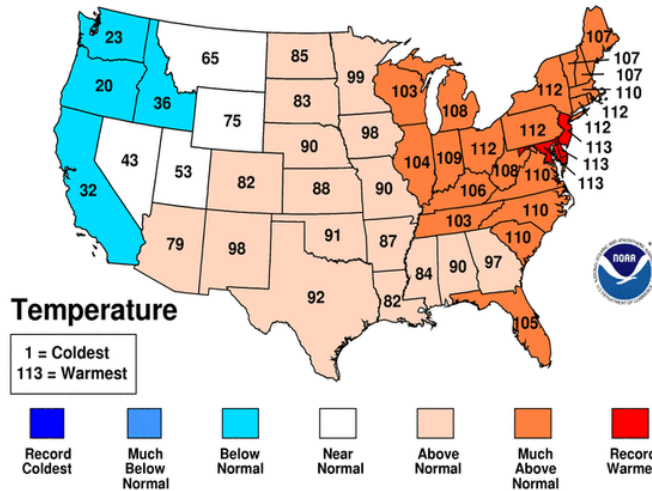
October 2007

Temperature Ranking and Percent of Normal Precipitation

49th warmest, 65th coldest

Statewide Ranks October 2007

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



October 2007 Percent of Normal Precipitation

Period of Normal: 1971-2000

20 40 60 85 115 150 200

NOTE: Data used to generate this image are
PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls>

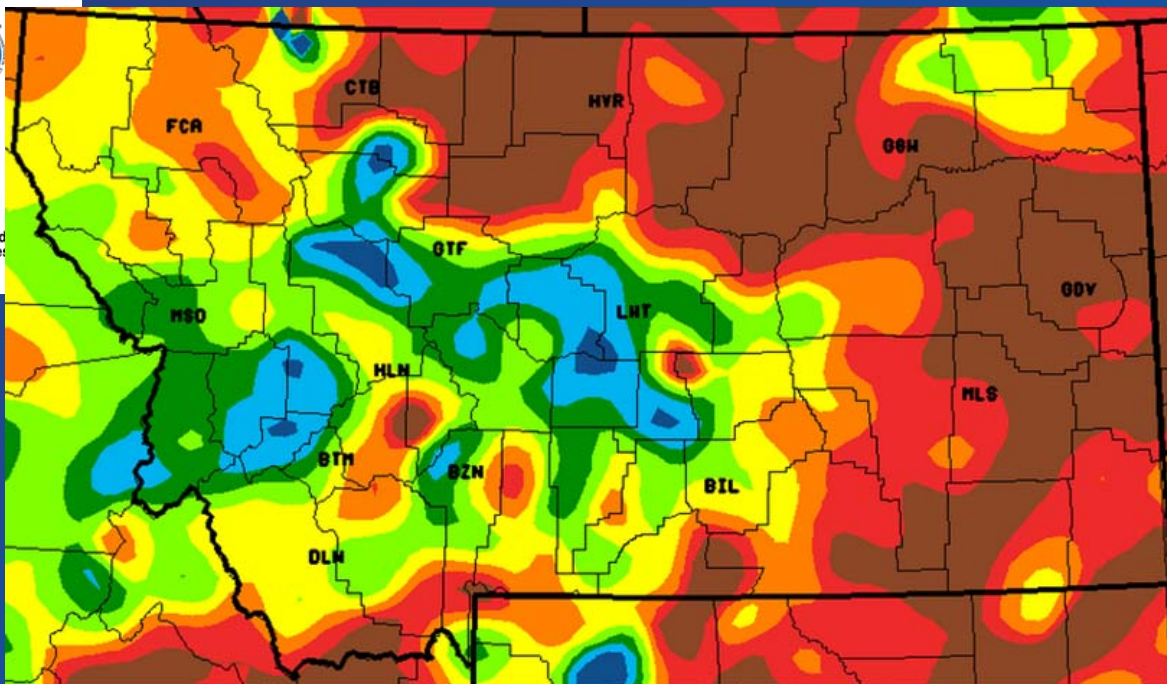
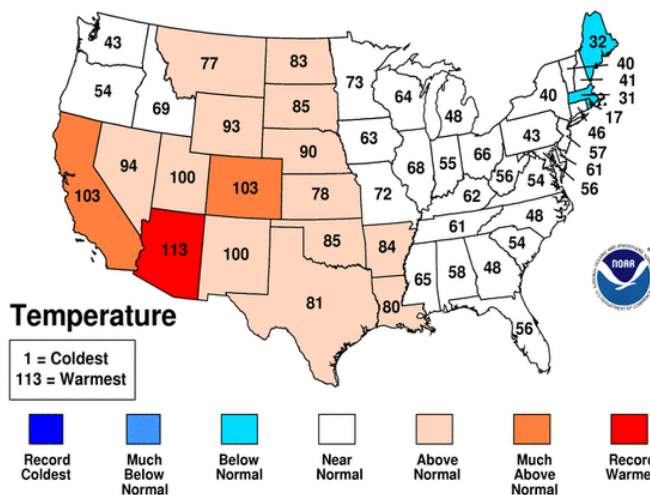
November 2007

Temperature Ranking and Percent of Normal Precipitation

37th warmest

Statewide Ranks November 2007

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



November 2007 Percent of Normal Precipitation

Period of Normal: 1971-2000

20 40 60 85 115 150 200

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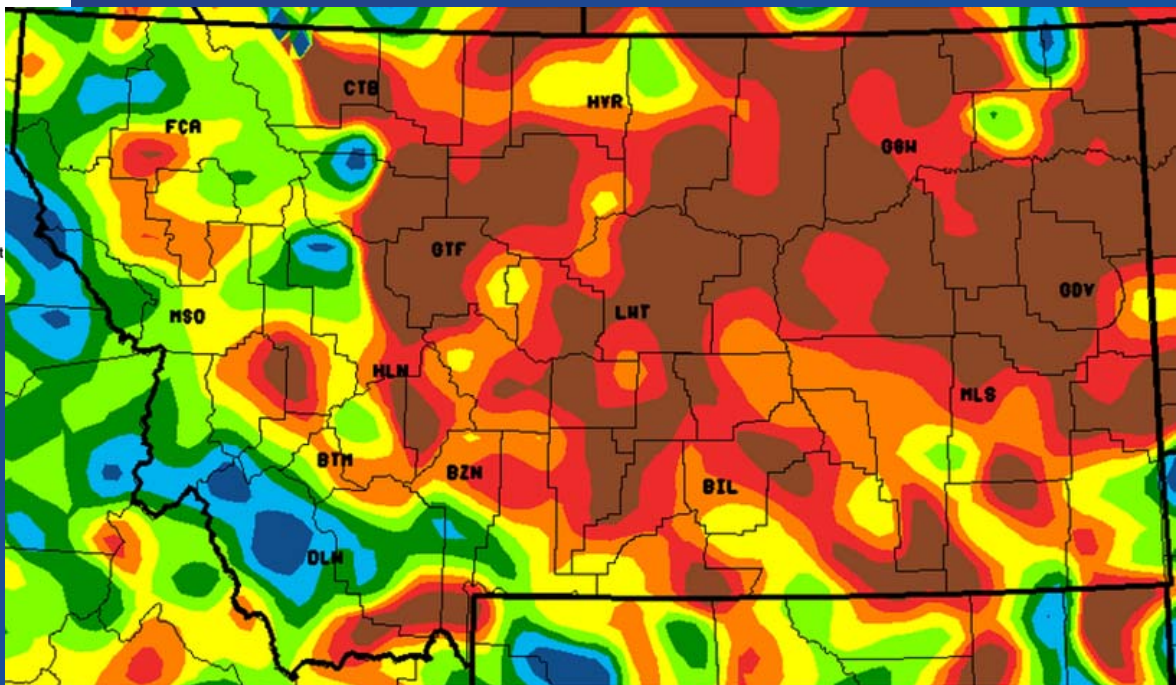
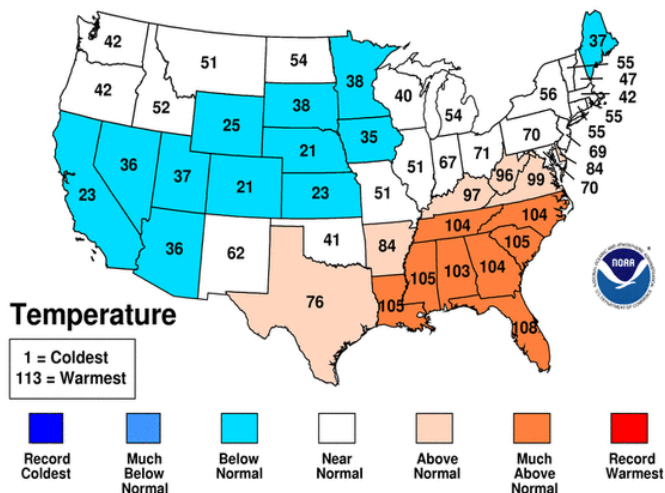
December 2007

Temperature Ranking and Percent of Normal Precipitation

51st coldest, 63rd warmest

December 2007 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



December 2007 Percent of Normal Precipitation

Period of Normal: 1971-2000

20 40 60 85 115 150 200

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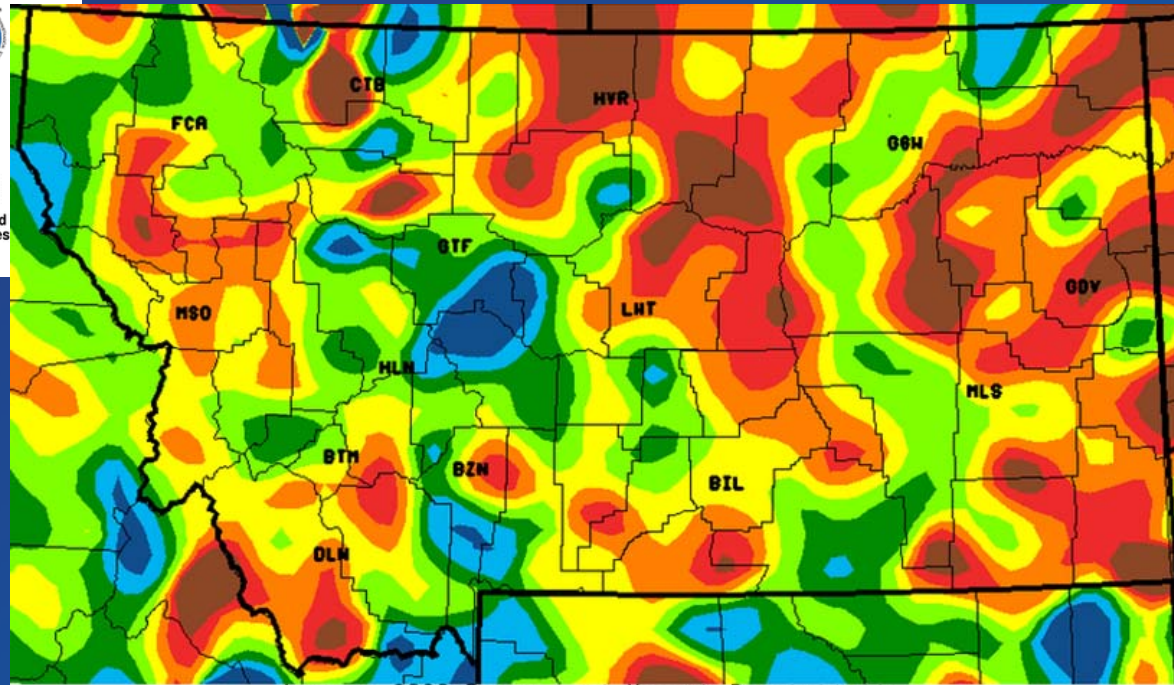
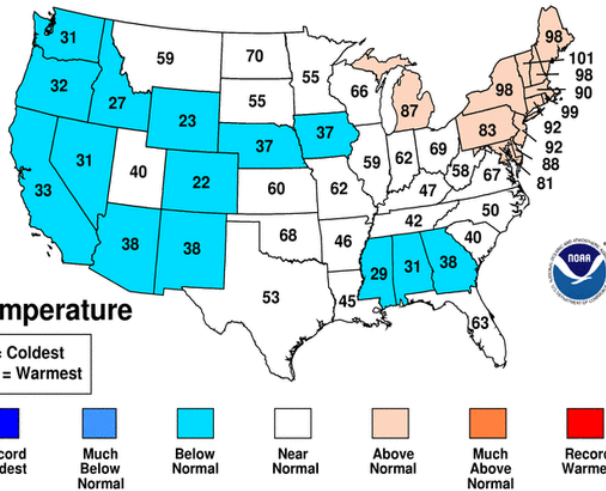
January 2008

Temperature Ranking and Percent of Normal Precipitation

59th coldest, 56th warmest

January 2008 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



Period of Normal: 1971-2000

20 40 60 85 115 150 200

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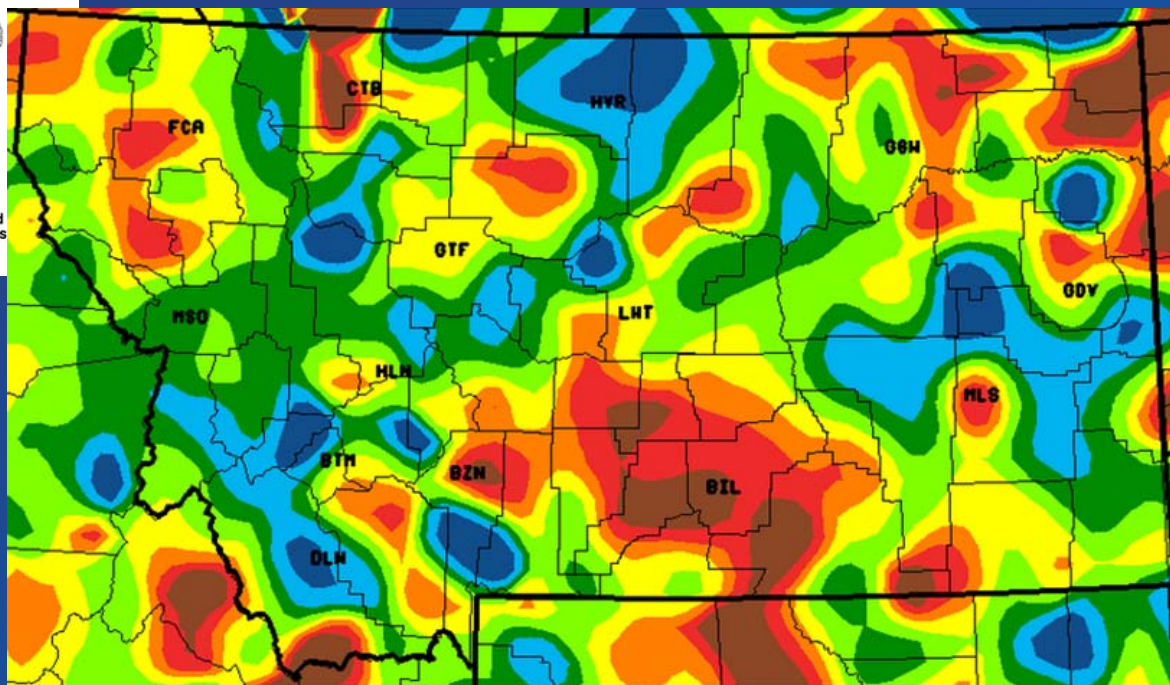
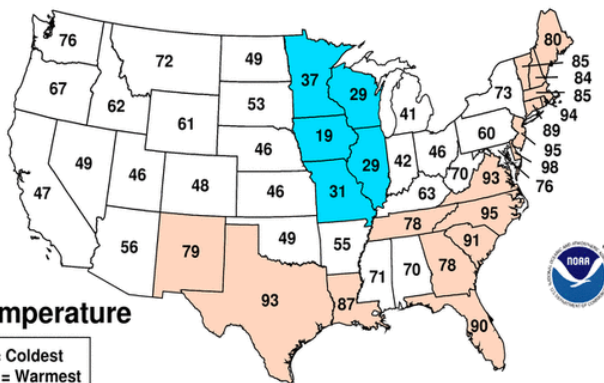
February 2008

Temperature Ranking and Percent of Normal Precipitation

43rd warmest

February 2008 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



February 2008 Percent of Normal Precipitation

Period of Normal: 1971-2000

20 40 60 85 115 150 200

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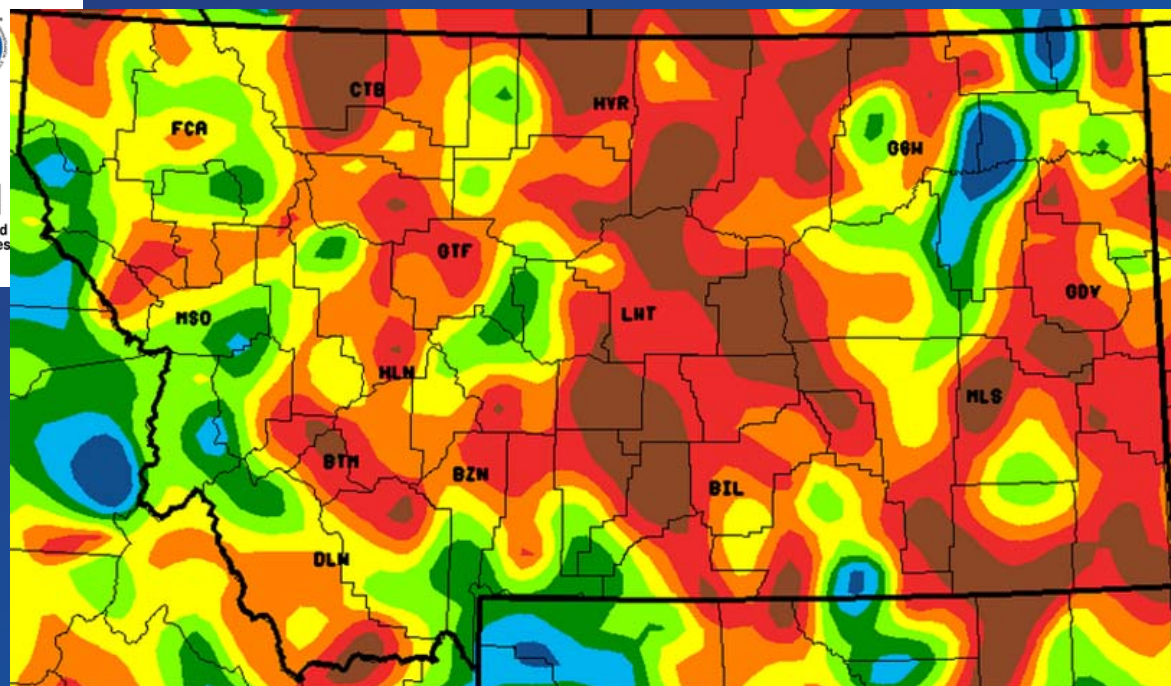
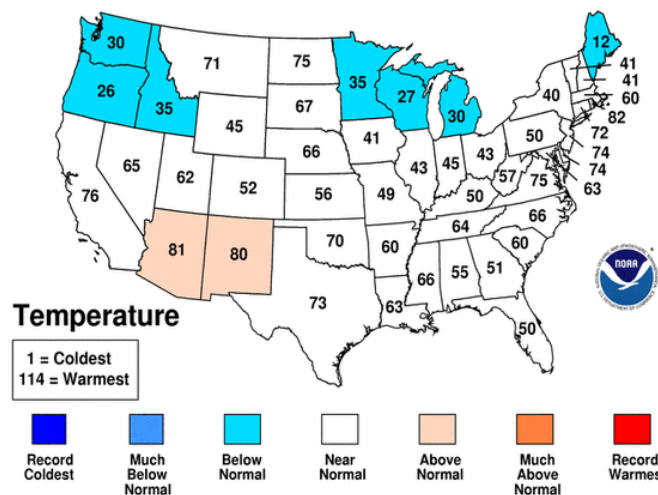
March 2008

Temperature Ranking and Percent of Normal Precipitation

44th warmest

March 2008 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



March 2008 Percent of Normal Precipitation

Period of Normal: 1971-2000

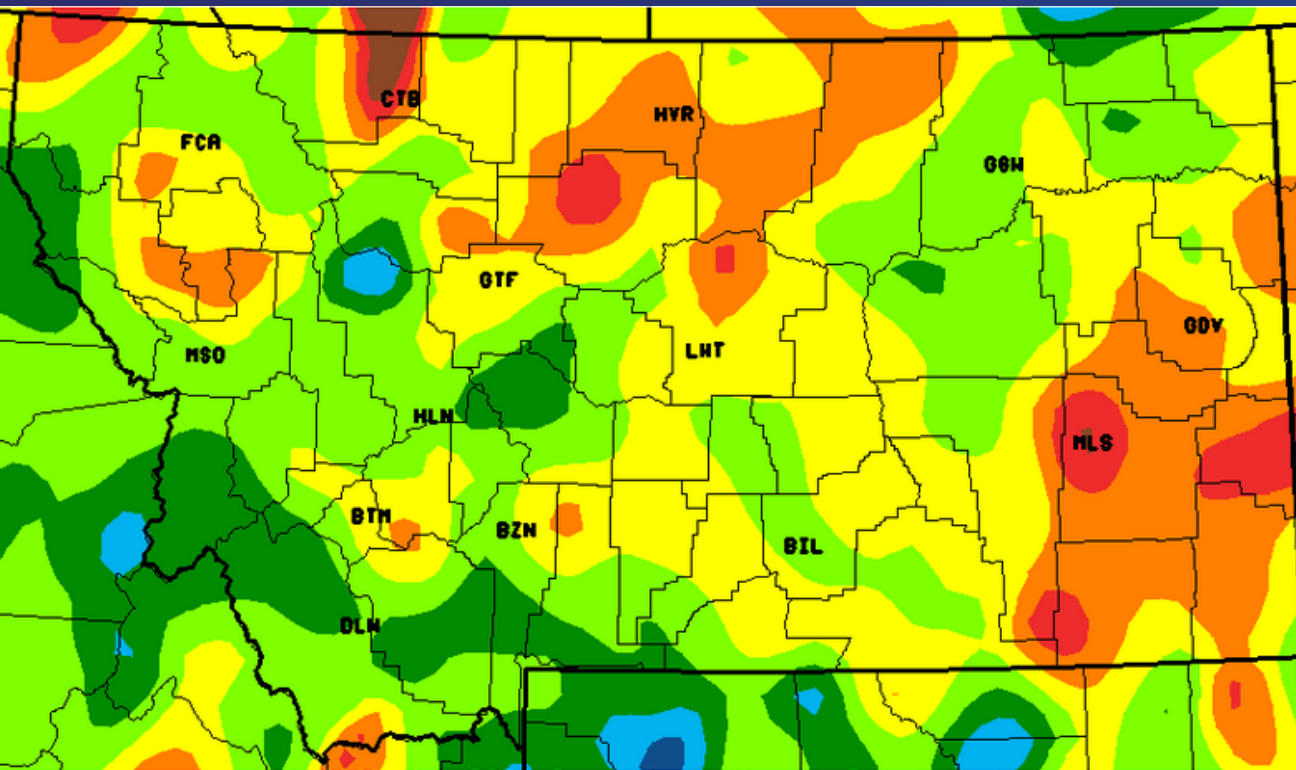
20 40 60 85 115 150 200

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Percent of Normal Precipitation

Water Year 2008



Oct 2007-Mar 2008 Percent of Normal Precipitation

Period of Normal: 1971-2000

20 40 60 85 115 150 200

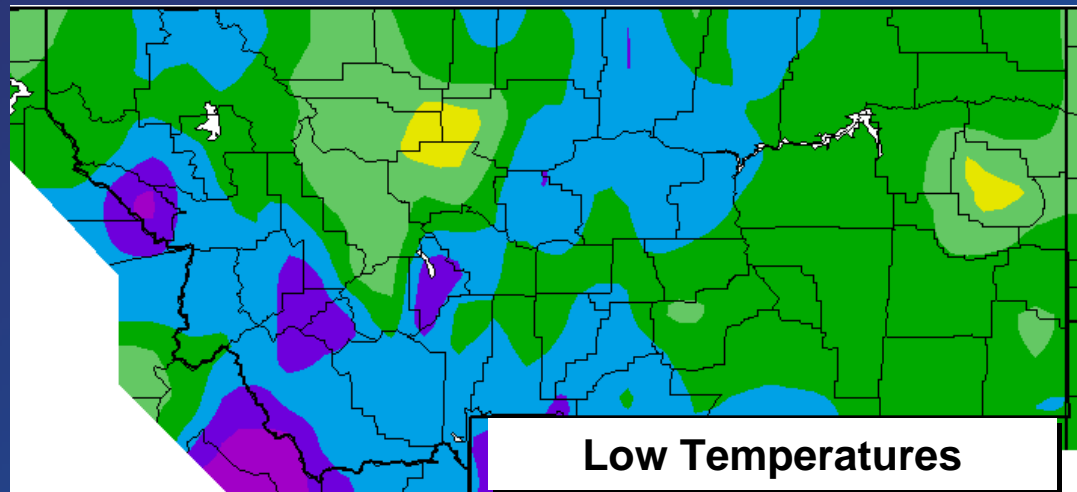
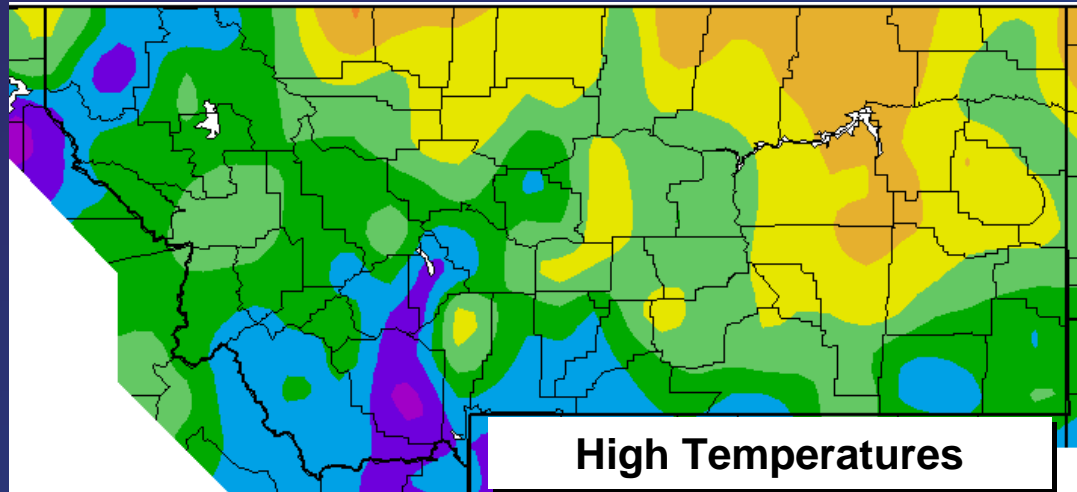
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<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/Greatfalls>

- October – March
- Western Montana averaging near normal
 - Small areas above normal southwest
- Central and eastern Montana averaging below normal
 - Areas well below normal north central and southeast

Temperature Anomalies

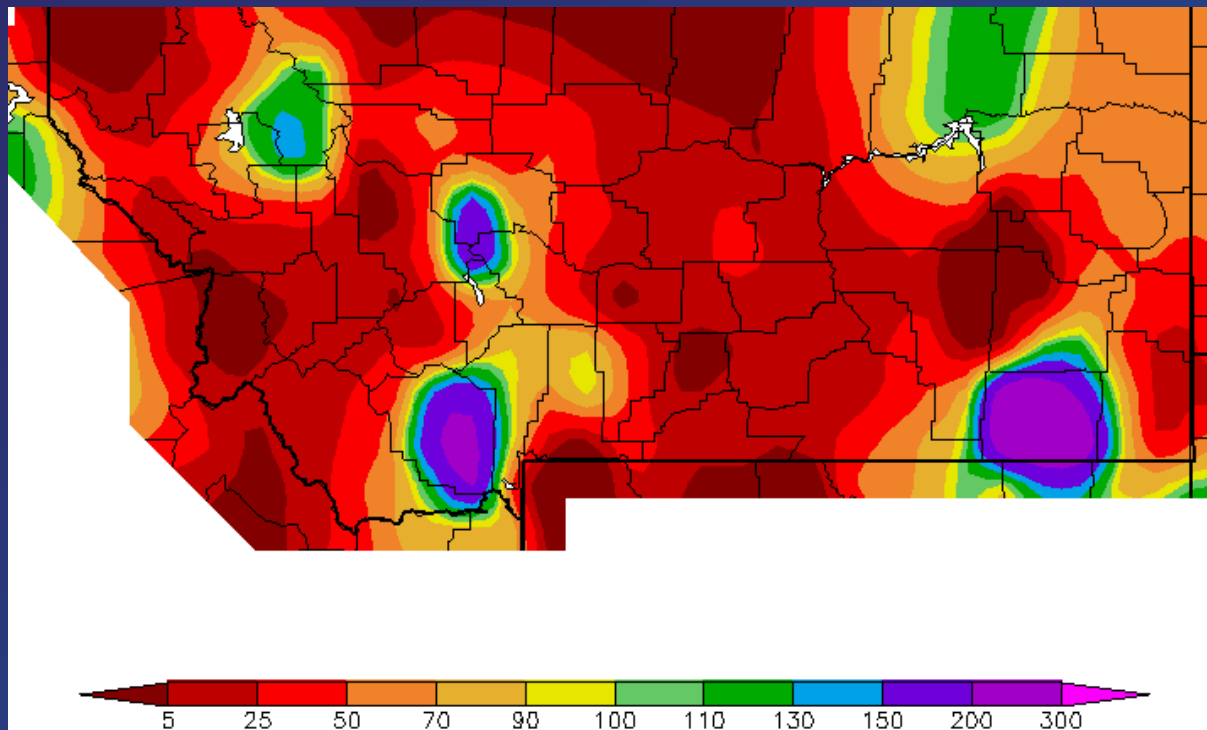
April 1 - 14



- Temperatures averaging below normal
- Highs
 - 2 to 8 degrees below normal west and south
 - Near to 4 degrees above normal north central and northeast
- Lows
 - 2 to 8 degrees below normal

Percent of Average Precipitation

April 1 - 14



- 💧 **Dry!**
- 💧 **Virtually all of Montana well below normal**
 - *Large areas in west and central have received less than 25% of normal precipitation for the month so far*

Precipitation Totals

April and Water Year 2008

	ACTUAL PCPN	APRIL 1 - 15 NRML PCPN	+/- NRML	% OF NRML	ACTUAL PCPN	WATER YEAR NRML PCPN	TO DATE +/- NRML	% OF NRML
WESTERN MONTANA								
BUTTE	0.11	0.45	-0.34	24	2.73	4.20	-1.47	65
KALISPELL	0.19	0.56	-0.37	34	5.27	8.35	-3.08	63
MISSOULA	0.04	0.30	-0.26	13	4.40	4.93	-0.53	89
MULLAN PASS	0.78	1.48	-0.70	53	30.99	33.78	-2.79	92
SOUTHWEST MONTANA								
BIG SKY	0.89	0.45	0.44	198	12.51	9.26	3.25	135
BOULDER	0.05	0.30	-0.25	17	2.67	3.12	-0.45	86
BELGRADE FIELD	1.22	0.60	0.62	203	5.44	5.25	0.19	104
BOZEMAN MSU	0.27	0.92	-0.65	29	8.63	7.36	1.27	117
DILLON AIRPORT	0.20	0.39	-0.19	51	3.23	2.61	0.62	124
ENNIS	1.17	0.58	0.59	202	6.43	4.47	1.96	144
HELENA	0.16	0.38	-0.22	42	2.68	3.49	-0.81	77
ROGERS PASS 9 NNE	0.10	0.63	-0.53	16	3.43	5.81	-2.38	59
TOWNSEND	0.22	0.30	-0.08	73	2.35	2.82	-0.47	83
WISDOM	0.16	0.43	-0.27	37	5.24	4.48	0.76	117

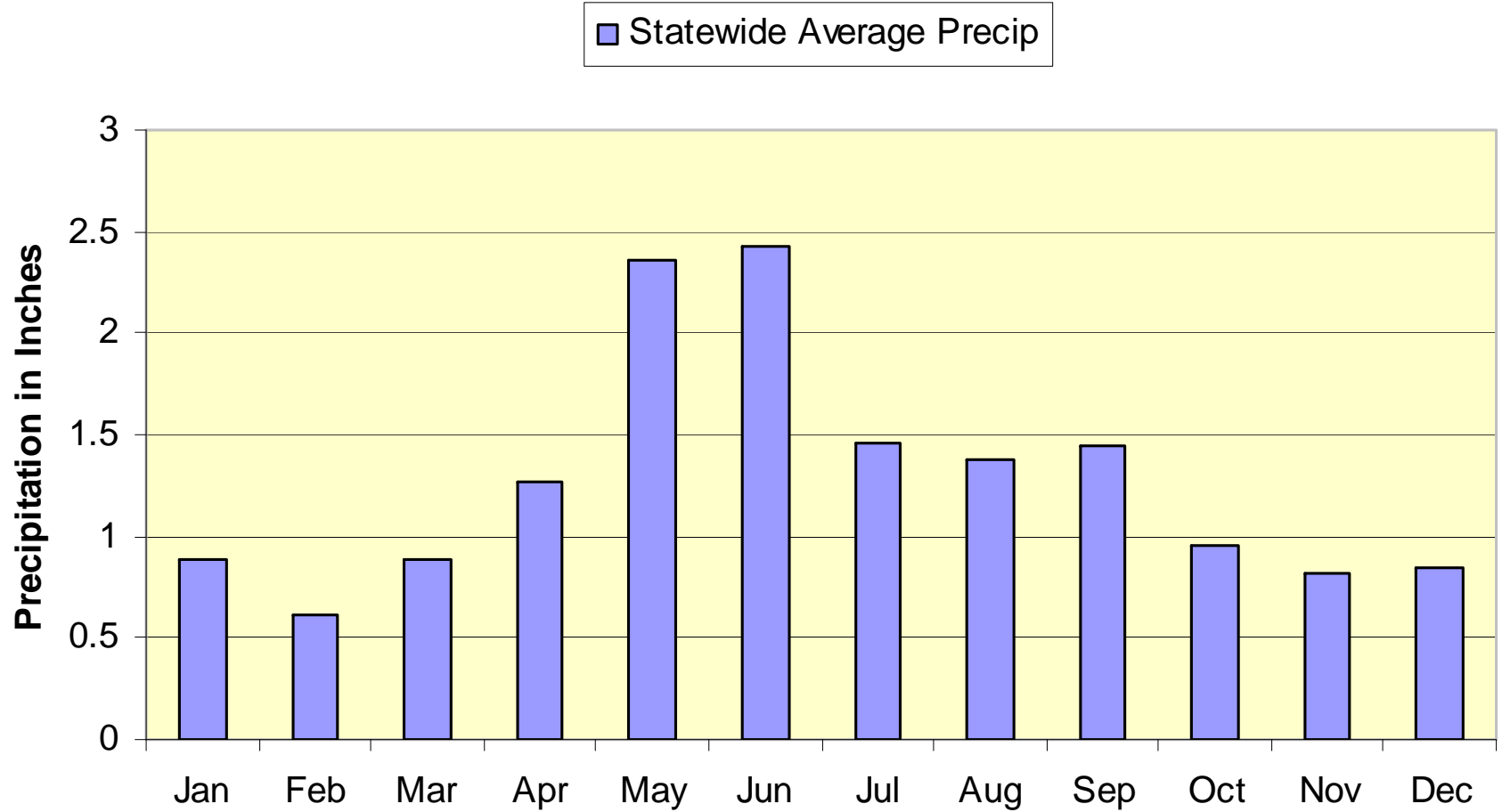
Precipitation Totals

April and Water Year 2008

	APRIL 1 - 15				WATER YEAR TO DATE			
	ACTUAL PCPN	NRML PCPN	+/- NRML	% OF NRML	ACTUAL PCPN	NRML PCPN	+/- NRML	% OF NRML
CENTRAL MONTANA								
BILLINGS	0.04	0.79	-0.75	5	3.95	5.91	-1.96	67
CASCADE 20 SSE	0.14	0.46	-0.32	30	4.72	3.97	0.75	119
CHESTER	0.00	0.30	-0.30	0	1.47	2.70	-1.23	54
CHOTEAU	2.07	0.25	1.82	828	6.63	2.31	4.32	287
CONRAD	0.08	0.43	-0.35	19	1.23	3.37	-2.14	36
CUT BANK	0.01	0.34	-0.33	3	1.05	2.78	-1.73	38
FORT ASSINNIBOINE	0.00	0.39	-0.39	0	1.65	3.62	-1.97	46
GOLD BUTTE 7 N	0.16	0.45	-0.29	36	2.39	3.57	-1.18	67
GRASS RANGE	0.34	0.60	-0.26	57	4.21	4.86	-0.65	87
GREAT FALLS	0.40	0.60	-0.20	67	3.54	5.01	-1.47	71
HARLEM	0.01	0.26	-0.25	4	1.40	2.72	-1.32	51
HAVRE	0.01	0.35	-0.34	3	1.50	3.46	-1.96	43
LIVINGSTON	1.06	0.65	0.41	163	4.94	5.12	-0.18	96
LEWISTOWN	0.34	0.60	-0.26	57	3.43	5.85	-2.42	59
MARTINSDALE 3 NNW	0.23	0.50	-0.27	46	3.62	3.81	-0.19	95
NEIHART 8 NNW	0.43	0.78	-0.35	55	7.09	7.15	-0.06	99
SHELBY	0.00	0.21	-0.21	0	1.35	1.84	-0.49	73
STANFORD	0.25	0.65	-0.40	38	3.34	5.09	-1.75	66
VALIER	0.10	0.35	-0.25	29	2.11	2.74	-0.63	77
WHITE SULPHUR SPRGS	0.30	0.49	-0.19	61	3.65	4.08	-0.43	89
EASTERN MONTANA								
GLASGOW	0.33	0.30	0.03	110	3.14	2.87	0.27	109
MILES CITY	0.02	0.58	-0.56	3	0.64	4.08	-3.44	16

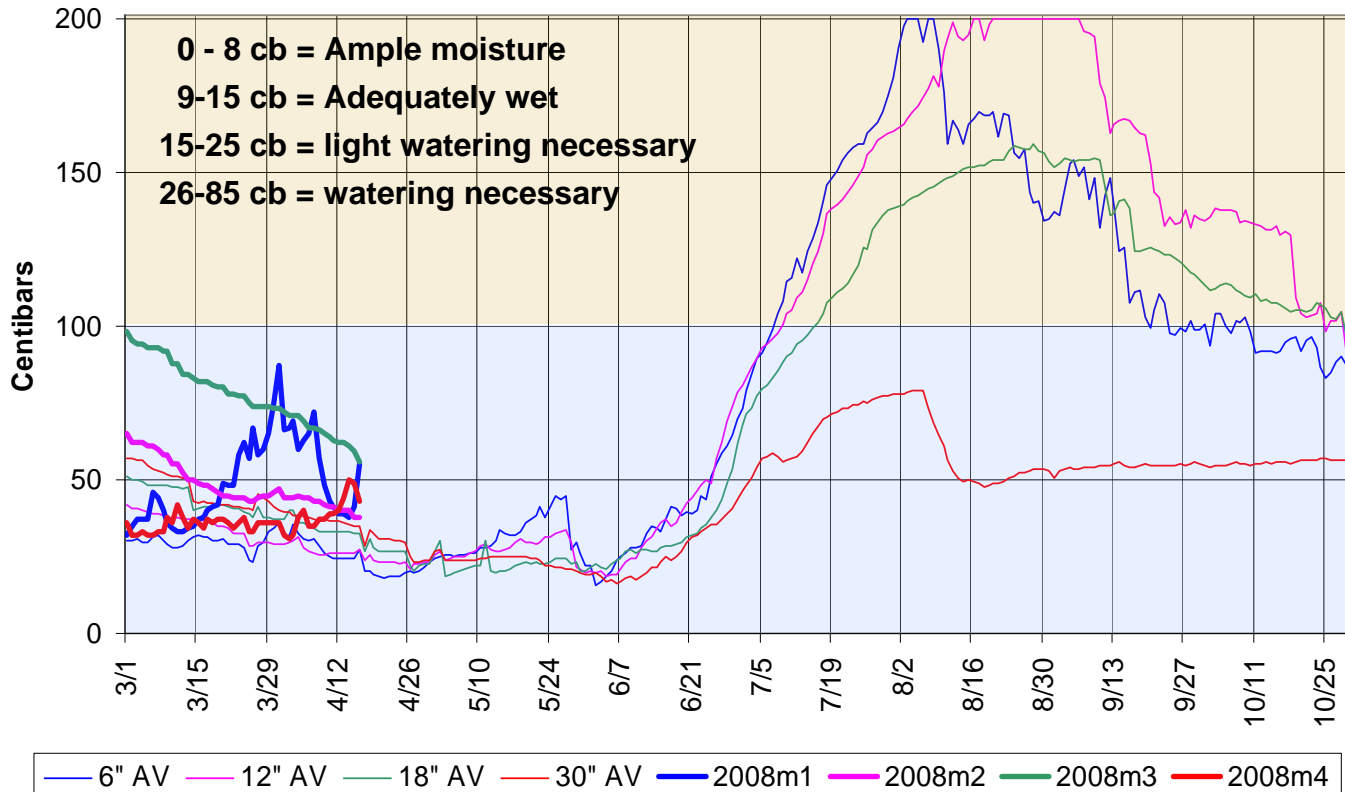
Statewide Average Precipitation

April showing increase to spring precipitation



Great Falls Soil Moisture

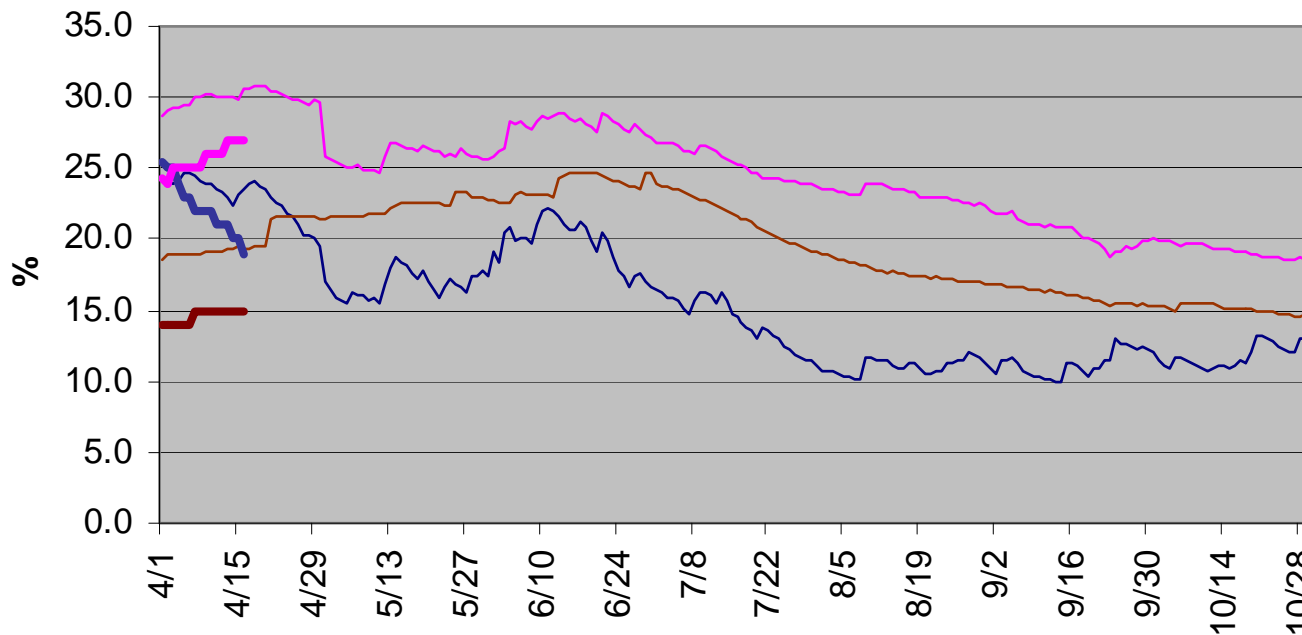
Great Falls Soil Moisture 2008
Average is 2003-2007



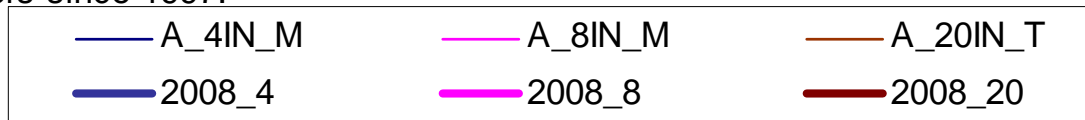
💧 Drier than
“average”
at all levels

Havre Soil Moisture

Havre SCAN Average Soil Moisture (1995-2008)



2008 Not lowest, but lowest
4/16 numbers since 1997.



- 💧 Driest since 1997
- 💧 Not driest of record

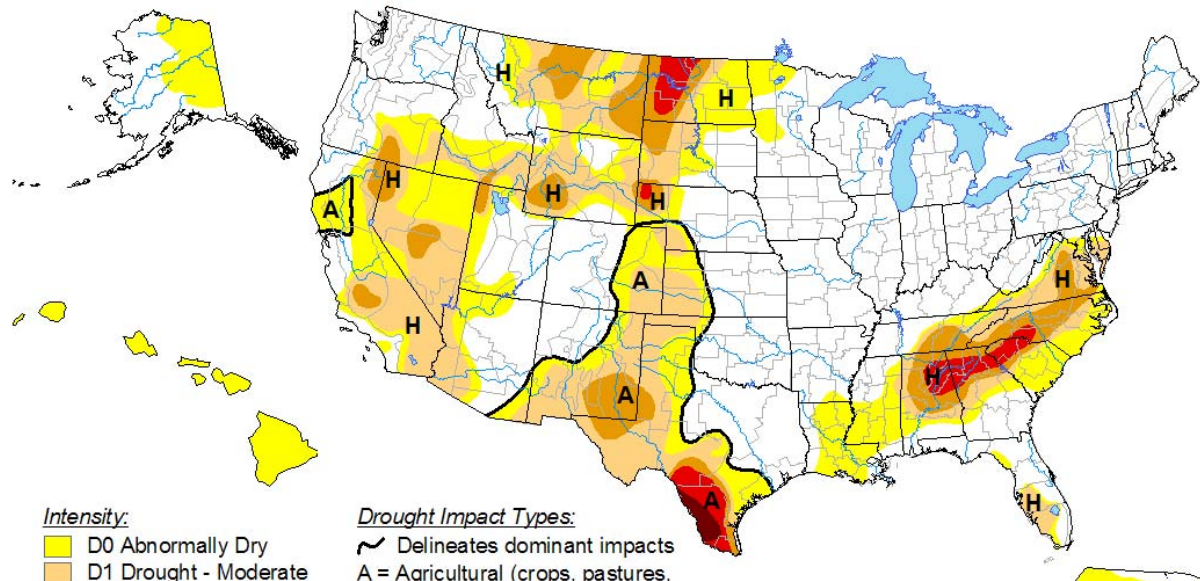
National Drought Monitor

Issued April 15, 2008

U.S. Drought Monitor

April 15, 2008

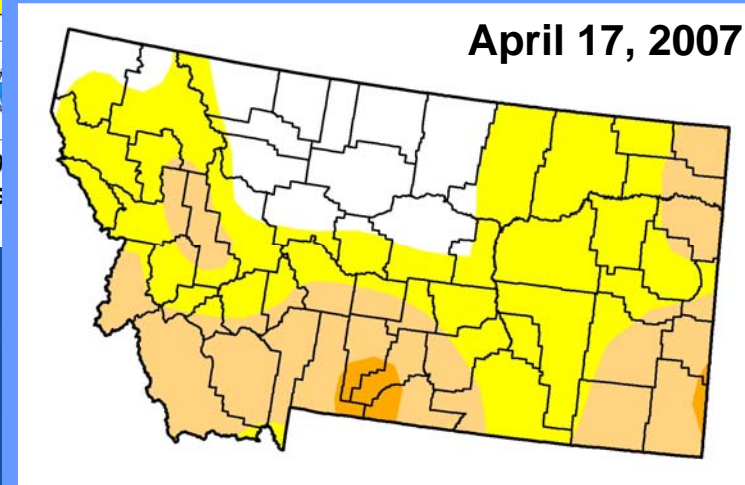
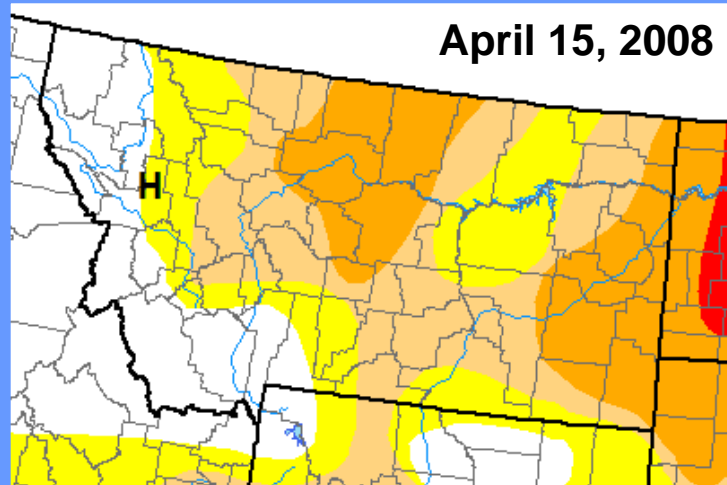
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



The Drought Monitor focuses on local conditions. Local conditions may vary. See the Drought Monitor website for forecast statements.

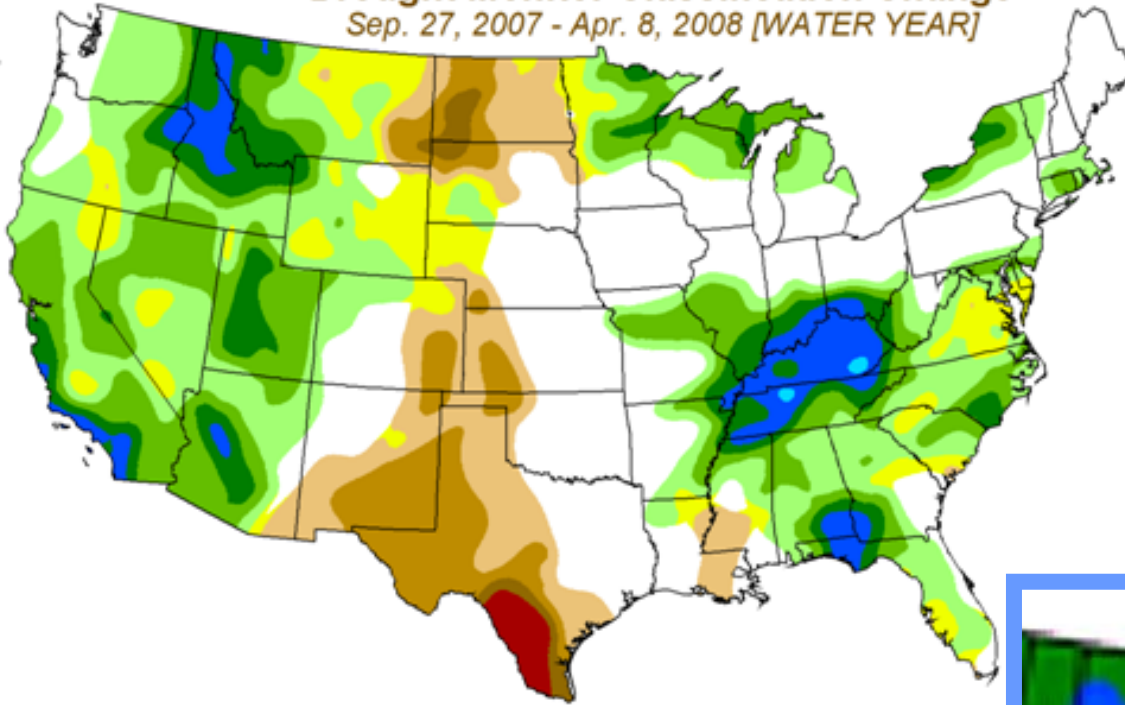
<http://droughtmonitor.noaa.gov>

- Montana east of the Divide ranging from D0 (Abnormally Dry) to D2 (Severe Drought)

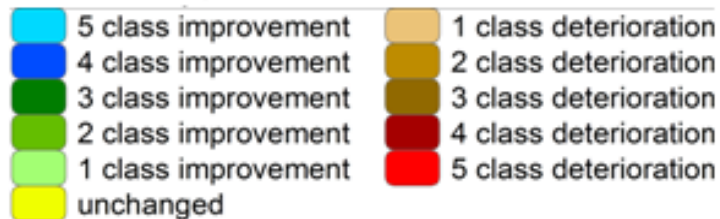


Change in Drought Classification From Beginning of Water Year

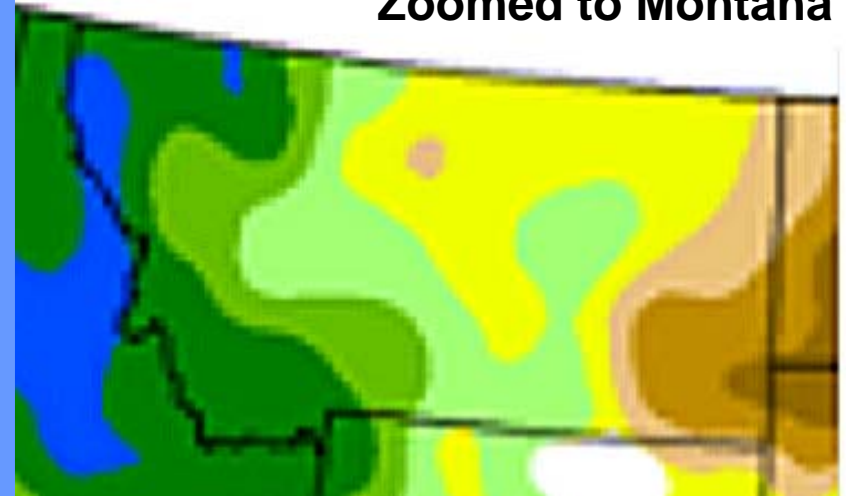
Drought Monitor Classification Change
Sep. 27, 2007 - Apr. 8, 2008 [WATER YEAR]



- Western Montana has improved 2 to 4 categories
- East has degraded 1 to 2 categories



Zoomed to Montana

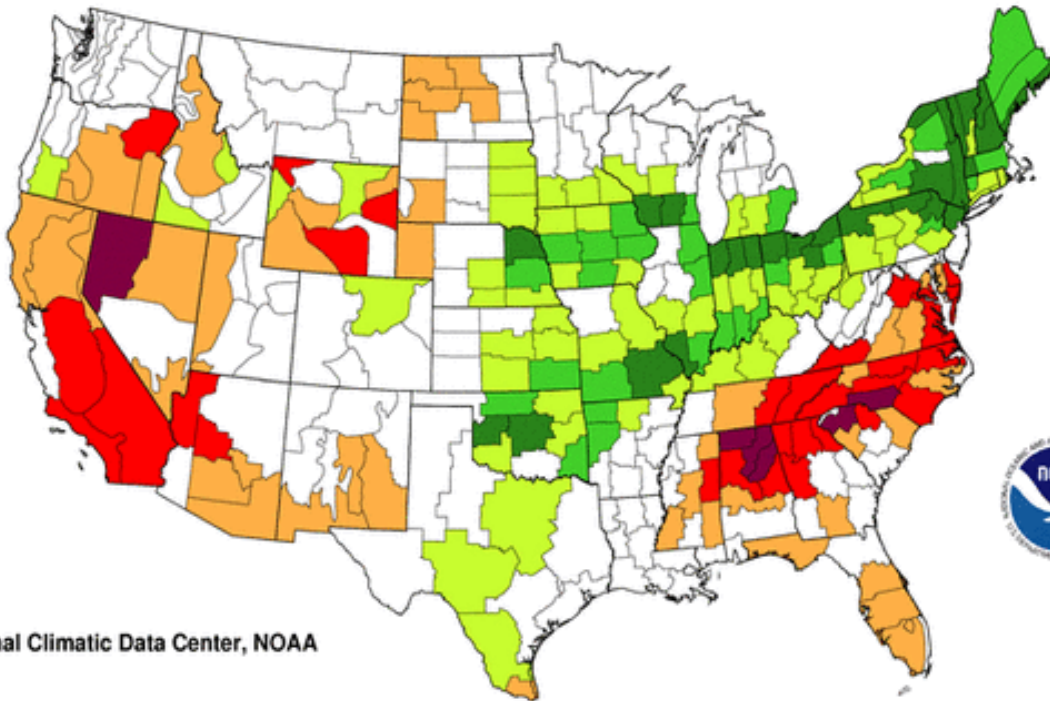


Palmer Hydrological Drought Index

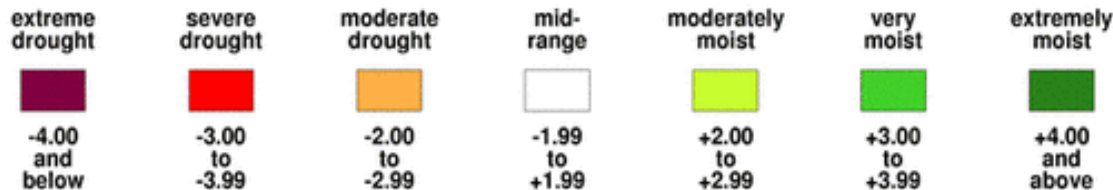
March 2008

Palmer Hydrological Drought Index
Long-Term (Hydrological) Conditions

March 2008



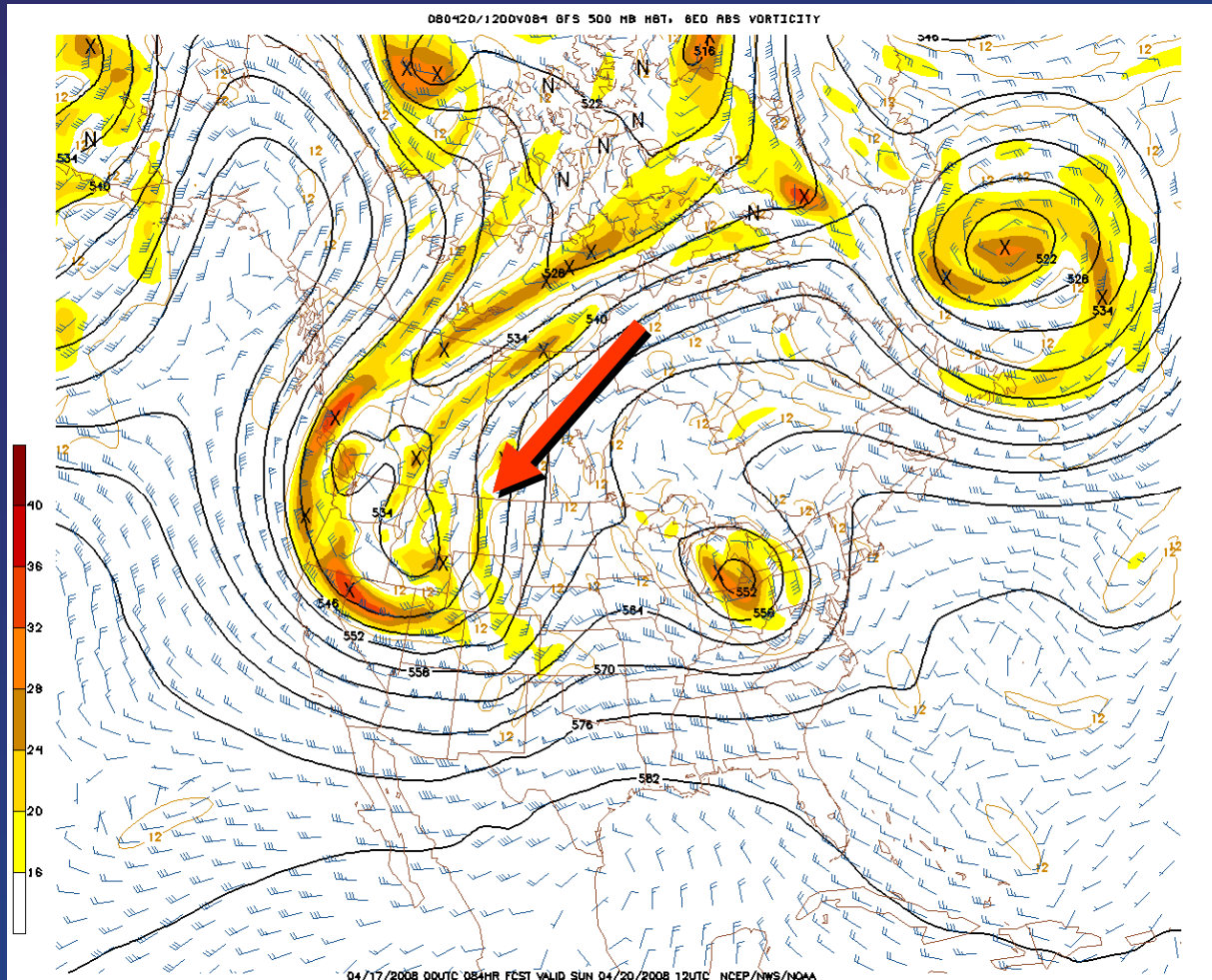
National Climatic Data Center, NOAA



- 💧 No Montana climate divisions classified as either 'moist' or 'drought'

Sunday Morning Outlook

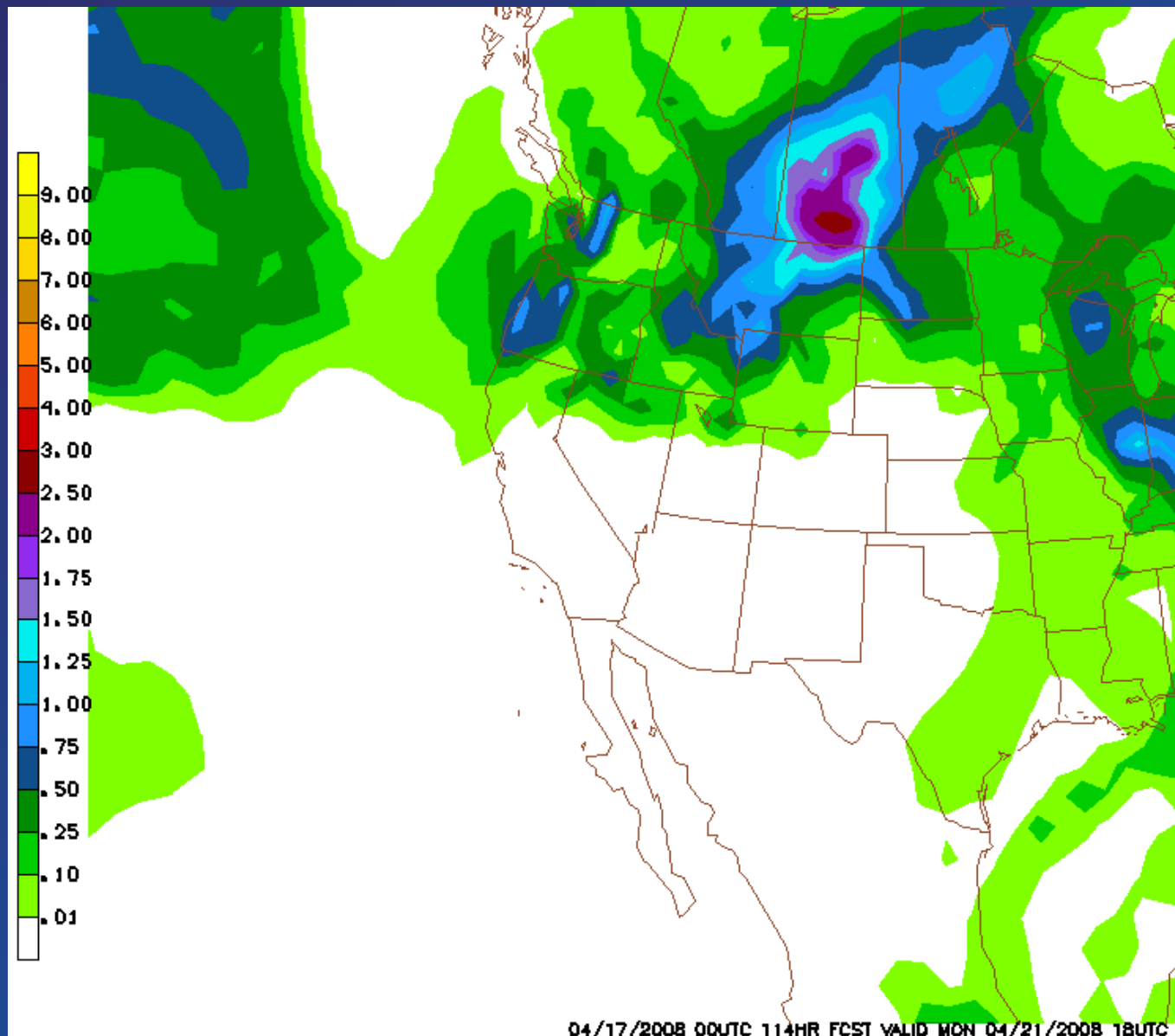
500mb Heights and Anomalies



💧 Deep, cold low pressure trough moving across northwest U.S. and Montana

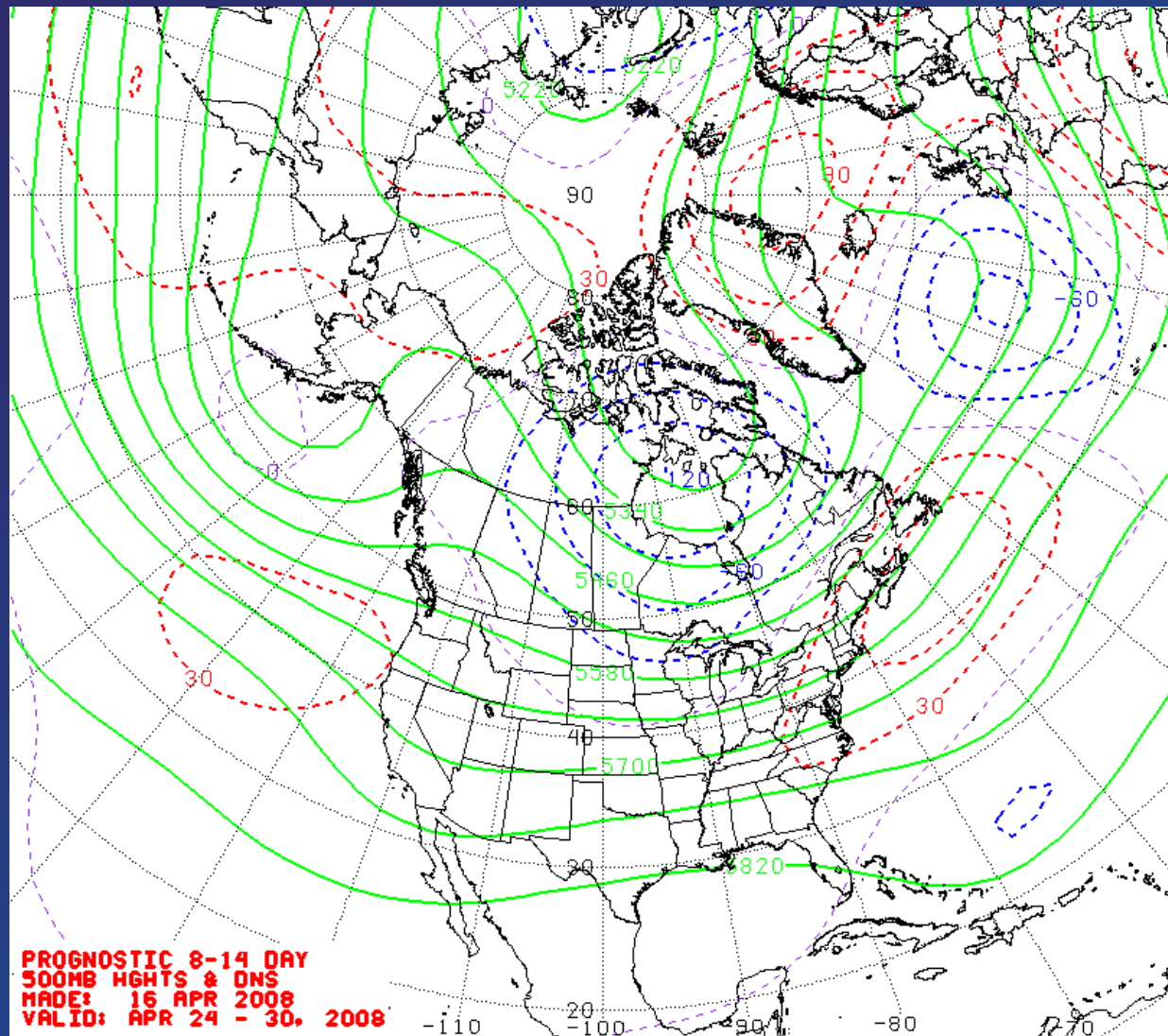
Precipitation Outlook

60-Hour Total Ending Monday Morning



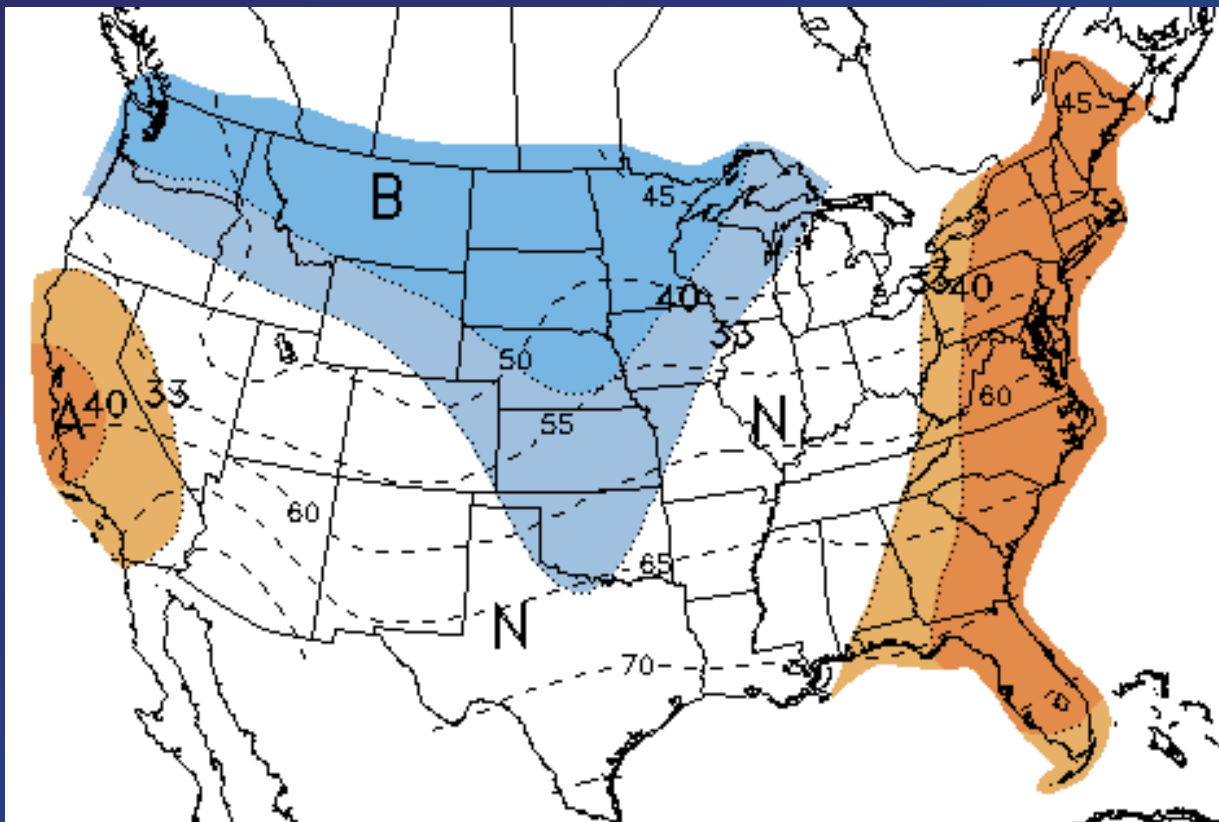
8 to 14 Day Outlook

500mb Heights and Anomalies



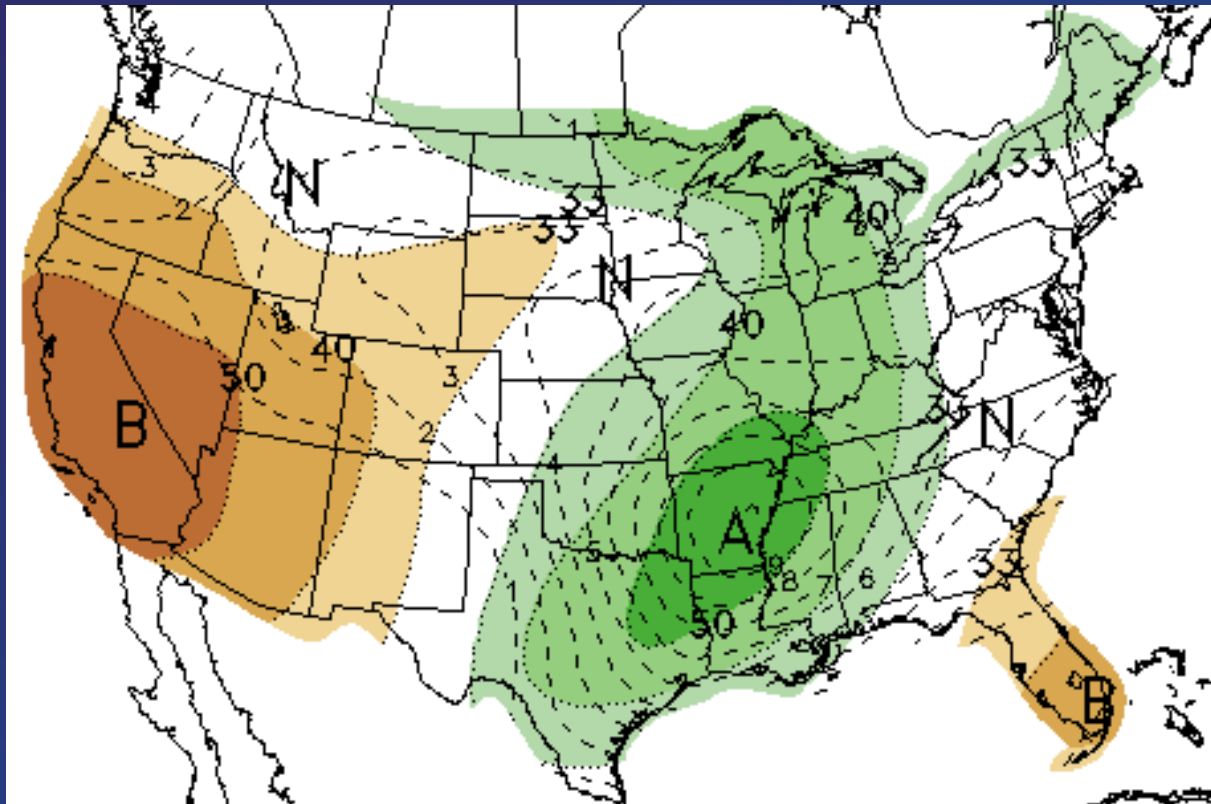
- Westerly flow aloft across Pacific Northwest and into Montana

8 to 14 Day Outlook – Temperatures



- April 24 - 30
- 40% to 50% chance temperatures will be below normal over Montana
- Averages
 - *Highs – 50s*
 - *Lows – 30s to lower 40s*

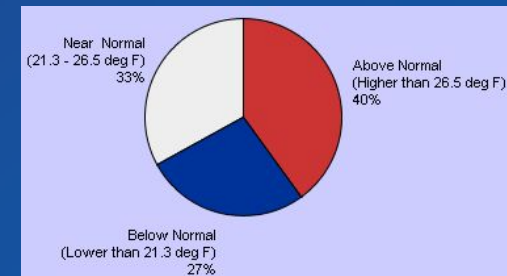
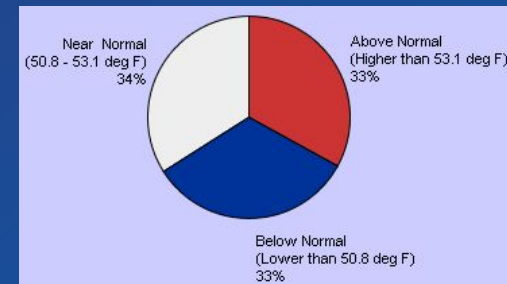
8 to 14 Day Outlook – Precipitation



- April 24 - 30
- Equal chances for above... below or near normal precipitation across most of Montana
 - 33% to 40% chance of above normal precipitation extreme northeast
- Normals
 - 0.75 to 1.75 inches

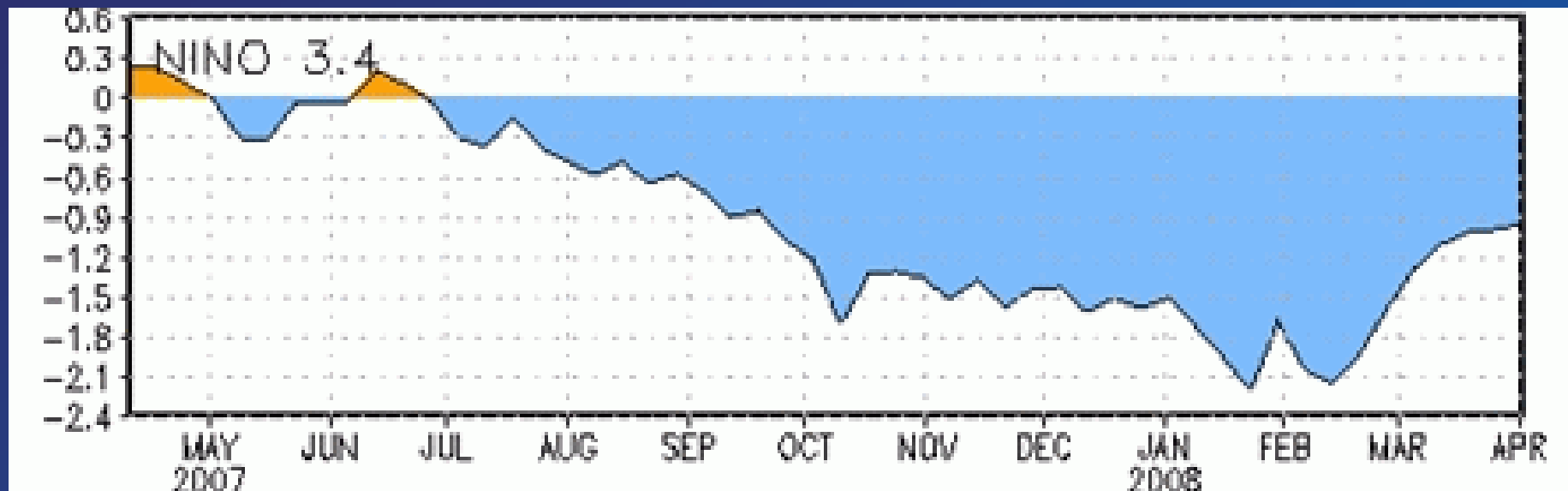
Interpreting the Probability Maps

- Colored shading indicates degree of confidence forecaster has in the category indicated
 - "B" and blue colors indicate "below-normal"*
 - "A" and orange-red colors indicate "above normal"*
 - The darker the shading, the greater is the level of confidence.*
- The probabilities of all three categories are implied on the map and sum to 100%.
 - Forecast probabilities generally fall far short of complete confidence (100%) in any single category.*
 - Probability of the "A" or "B" category is greater than 33.33%*
 - The probability of the opposite category declines by that amount
 - The probability of the middle category remains at 33.33%.
 - When the "N" category is greater than 33.33%*
 - Probabilities of both the "A" and "B" categories are reduced by 1/2 the amount that the "N" category exceeds 33.33%.
 - When the probability of "A", or "B" reaches 63.33% or higher*
 - Odds of the opposite category reach a minimum allowed value of 3.33%
 - Odds of the middle category are allowed to drop below 33.33%.



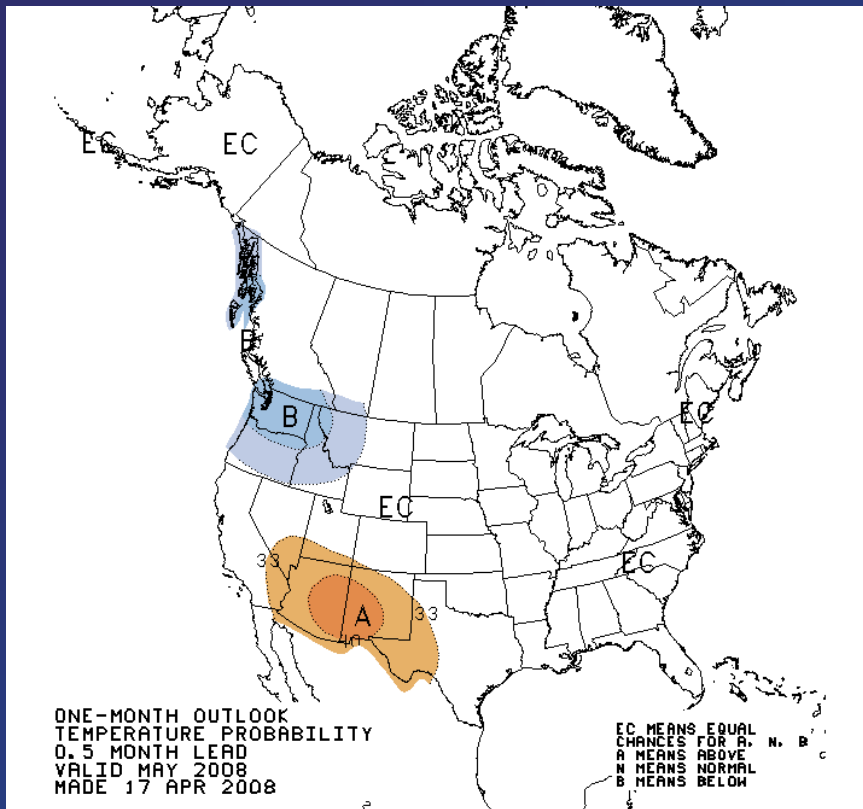
El Niño / La Niña

- La Niña conditions (below normal sea surface temperatures) expected to continue for next 3 months



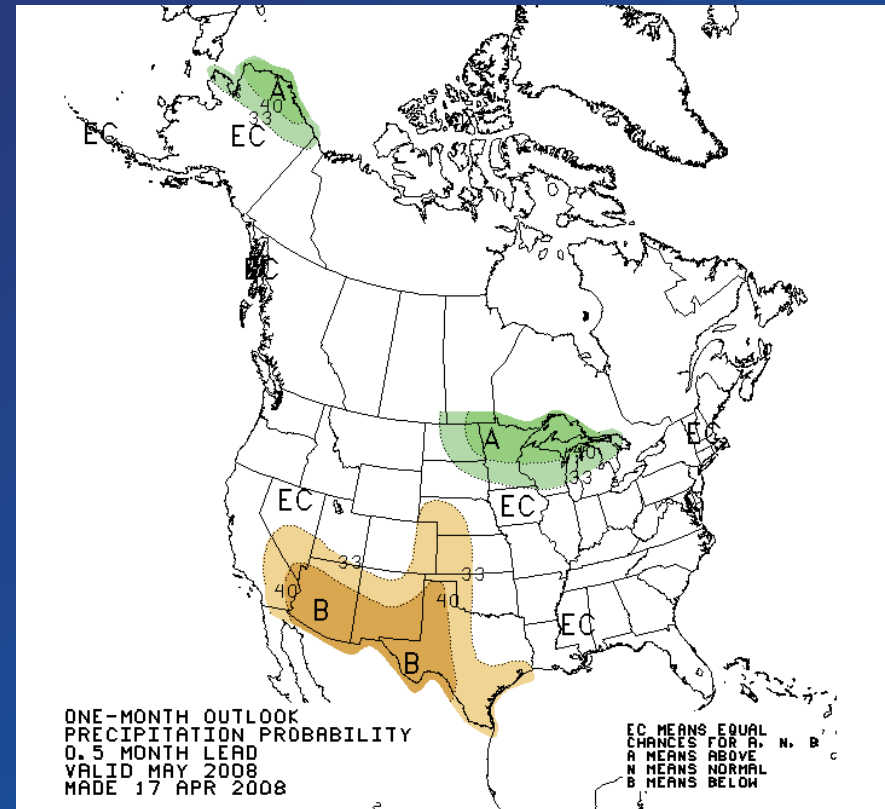
May Outlook

Temperature



- Better chances temperatures will be below normal over western half of Montana
 - 33% to 50% chance
- Remainder of area shows no forecast skill...
 - *Equal chances temperatures will be above... below or near normal*

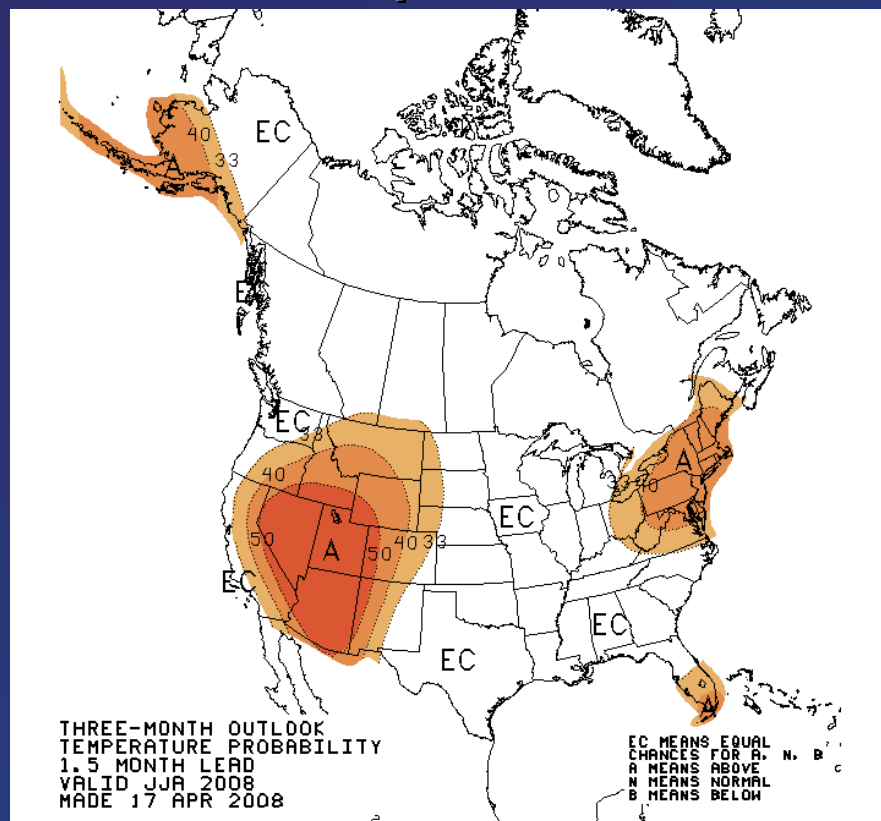
Precipitation



- No forecast skill during this period
 - *Equal chances precipitation will be above... below or near normal*

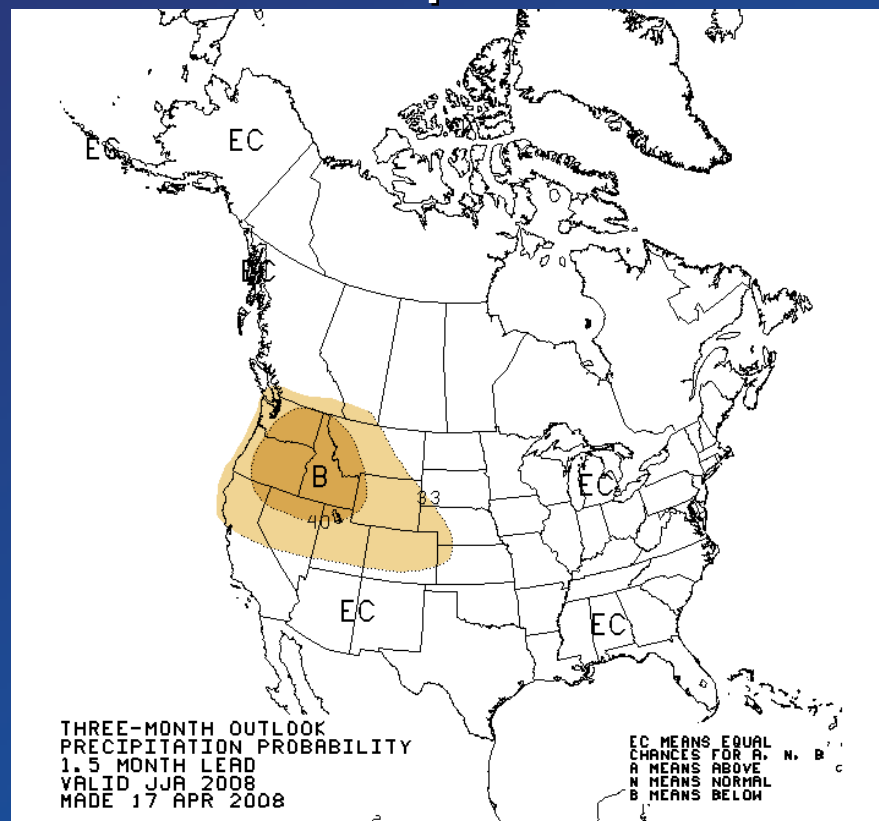
June - August Outlook

Temperature



- Better chances temperatures will be above normal over most of Montana
 - 33% to 40% chance north and east
 - 40% to 50% chance southwest and south central

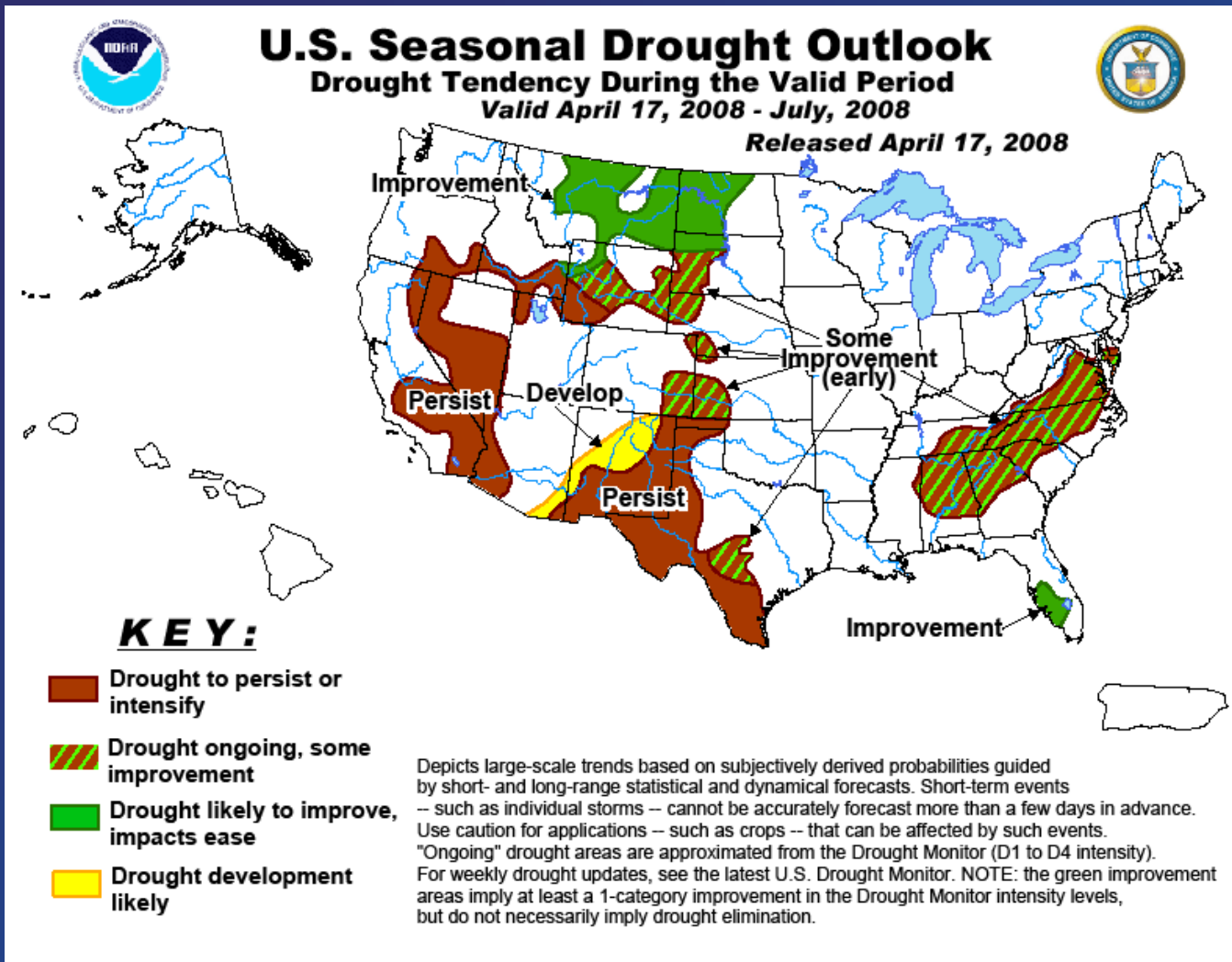
Precipitation



- Better chances precipitation will be below normal over west and central Montana
 - 33% to 40% chance central
 - 40% to 50% chance west
- Remainder of area shows no forecast skill...
 - Equal chances precipitation will be above... below or near normal

Drought Outlook through July

Issued April 17, 2008



💧 Areas in drought status expected to improve through the spring

drought.gov

NIDIS Public Community - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.drought.gov/portal/server.pt

nidis portal

MODIS 30days FFMP Basins AHPS CMS WHFS Water Reservoir Stora... TFX Graphs Login for National We... Department of Comme... AWDC

Other Drought-related Sites Drought Monitor NIDIS Public Community

National Integrated Drought Information System drought.gov

Portal Home Log In Contact Us Text-Only Search:

Navigate drought.gov

What is NIDIS?

Current Drought

Forecasting

Impacts

Planning

Education

Research

Area Information

Select State... >> Go

Select Region... >> Go

Maps & Tools

>> GIS Resources

USA.gov

Welcome to drought.gov!

Icon - Impacts
How is the Drought
Affecting Me?

Where are Drought
Conditions Now?

Will the Drought
Continue?

U.S. Drought Monitor

April 8, 2008
2008 Apr 8 12Z

Legend:

D0 Abnormally Dry

D1 Drought - Moderate

D2 Drought - Severe

D3 Drought - Extreme

D4 Drought - Exceptional

Current Impact States:
D0: Drought - Moderate
D1: Drought - Severe
D2: Drought - Extreme
D3: Drought - Exceptional

USDA

NOAA

DOI

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Forest Service

U.S. Geological Survey

U.S. Navy

U.S. Coast Guard

U.S. Air Force

U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. Space Force

U.S. Department of Justice

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Department of Energy

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Department of State

U.S. Department of Justice

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U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Department of Energy

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Department of Transportation

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Department of State

Released Thursday, April 10, 2008

Author: Rick Tinker, Climate Prediction Center, NOAA

http://drought.unl.edu/dm

Drought Conditions

% Area for U.S., including, AK, HI & PR
(As of 4.8.2008)

Info Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

2.19%

4.49%

15.57%

21.85%

55.9%

D0 Abnormally Dry

D1 Drought - Moderate

D2 Drought - Severe

D3 Drought - Extreme

D4 Drought - Exceptional

View Time Series - Last 12 months

What's New

** drought.gov - New Release! **

Southeast Drought Workshop

Status of Drought Early Warning Workshop - June 2008

Drought News

Southeast drought eases, but concern remains - USATODAY.com

Do Trees Worsen Droughts? : NPR

NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - Current Major Flooding in U.S. a Sign of Things to Come

Los Angeles Times: More changes that help conserve water at home

U.S. Spring Season Forecast: More Record Floods Environment News Service (ENS)

NIDIS Feature

Southeast Drought Workshop

April 29-30, 2008

In Summary...

- 💧 **West and southwest Montana have received near normal precipitation through the late fall and winter seasons**
- 💧 **Central and eastern Montana have received below to well below normal precipitation through the late fall and winter seasons**
- 💧 **Seeing some worsening of drought categories east of the Divide**
- 💧 **Near-term forecast is for another storm this weekend**
- 💧 **Forecast through the end of the month shows better chances for cooler temperatures... no trends for precipitation**
- 💧 **Drought Outlook indicates improvement expected... this based largely on near-term precipitation forecasts.**

weather.gov

weather.gov/billings

weather.gov/glasgow

weather.gov/missoula

weather.gov/greatfalls



Missouri River near Cascade